GETTING AHEAD: Mentors lend their biz-world know-how to newbies | **Inside**

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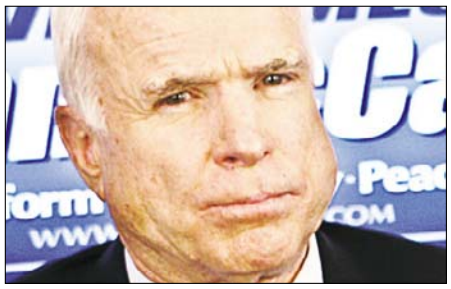
Wednesday



John McCain sparred with Barack Obama on Iraq. AP

Iraq Conflict: Presidential rivals clash over war plans | 4

Lazy Years: Study finds exercise levels drop in teens | 3

Sergio's Time? Garcia looks to breakthrough at the British | 13

ENTERTAINMENT

Are You In? *Heidi Klum* is back with a fifth season of 'Project Runway.' Also, Black Kids' debut album soars.

>> 17-21

STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Twin Bombings Kill 28 in Iraq

IN MOURNING: A relative of a bombing victim is restrained in front of the bodies of blast victims outside a mortuary in Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, on Tuesday. At least 28 people were killed Tuesday when two suicide bombers blew themselves up in a crowd of recruits at an Iraqi army base in an area known to be an al-Qaeda stronghold. ✤ **Familiar scene:** Blasts recall past violence | **Page 7**

Bernanke Bleak on Economy

Fed chair warns Congress of 'numerous difficulties'

WASHINGTON | Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Tuesday the fragile economy is facing "numerous difficulties" despite the Fed's aggressive interest rate reductions and other fortifying steps.

At the same time, Bernanke, testifying before the Senate Banking Committee, sounded another warning that rising prices for energy and food are elevating inflation risks. This problem looms even as officials try to cope with persistent strains in financial markets, rising joblessness and housing problems.

→ **While President Bush called the economy "sound," leaders are running out of answers for the ongoing economic woes | Page 3**

The situation, he said, poses "significant challenges" for policymakers as they try to chart the best course for keeping the economy growing, while making sure inflation doesn't dangerously flare up. All the economy's problems, including slumping home values, represent "significant downside risks" to economic growth.

On Wall Street, stocks slumped. The Dow Jones industrials were down around 50 points, after suffering steeper losses earlier in the morning.

Bernanke's testimony comes just two days after the Fed and the Treasury Department came to the rescue of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, offering to throw them a financial lifeline. JEANNINE AVERSA (AP)

pollcenter WHO'S DOING A WORSE JOB IN THE FACE OF A WEAK ECONOMY AND THE IRAQ WAR? Ⓐ BUSH Ⓑ CONGRESS

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WEDNESDAY 92|69 | THURSDAY 94|72 | FRIDAY 94|73

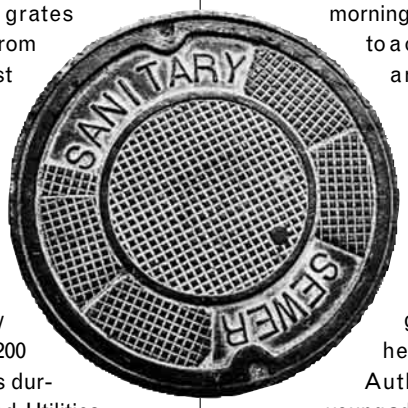
TODAY: Early, patchy fog lifts for a seasonably hot, clear afternoon | 30

eyeOpeners

TRADE

Manhole Black Market Is Dark Side Of Industrial Chic

Officials in Flint, Mich., say they've had to replace hundreds of manhole covers and grates that were probably stolen and sold for scrap. The Flint Journal reported Monday that nearly 400 cast-iron covers and grates have been taken from streets in the past year. A cover can fetch $20 from a scrap yard but can cost the city more than $200 to replace. Officials in neighboring Burton say they've lost about 200 covers and grates during the same period. Utilities supervisor Mike Holzer says it leaves uncovered holes up to 35 feet deep. Genesee County officials say they've been able to reduce thefts of county-owned covers by outfitting them with a bolt that is turned by a wrench only they have. (AP)



WILDLIFE

Bear Wanted to Upgrade to Plasma

The creature that broke into a Colorado Springs, Colo., electronics store won't face any charges, even if authorities can find it. Colorado Springs police confirm it was a bear who broke a sliding glass door at a Circuit City store Tuesday morning, then went inside to a customer waiting area where surveillance cameras recorded its every move. The scared bear then ran back out the same broken glass door and headed for a tree. Authorities say the young adult black bear had become spooked after setting off an alarm at a nearby Fazoli's restaurant. Circuit City supervisor Dawn Greene joked that the bear probably wanted a new 72-inch LCD-screen television. No one was hurt, except, perhaps, the bear. (AP)

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/AP

TECHNOLOGY

Let's Fetishize Airplanes

They couldn't bring the real thing? Here, a visitor at the Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, England, gazes into a life-size model of the General Electric GE90-115B jet engine. The company says it's the world's largest and most powerful jet engine. (EXPRESS)

EMPLOYMENT

Mental Health Day Needed Immediately

A Hobart, Ind., officer's squad car was nearly totaled in a crash less than a half-hour into his first day on the city police force. Officer Tim Pochron was inside his house early Monday when someone hit his new squad car parked outside. "Pochron was 29 minutes into the first day of his new job when his parked squad car was struck," Hobart police Lt. Steve Houck said. (AP)

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SIGNING OFF : Fox News mainstay Brit Hume is leaving his post as managing editor and anchor of "Special Report," The Washington Post reported Tuesday. Sources say Hume will continue to have a role with the network.

Nation

Study: Kids Get Lazier As the Age

Teenage years linked to dramatic decline in physical activities

CHICAGO | One of the largest studies of its kind shows just how sluggish American children become once they hit the teen years: While 90 percent of 9-year-olds get a couple hours of exercise most days, fewer than 3 percent of 15-year-olds do.

What's more, the study suggests fewer than a third of teens that age get even the minimum recommended by the government — an hour of moderate-to-vigorous exercise, like cycling, brisk walking, swimming or jogging.

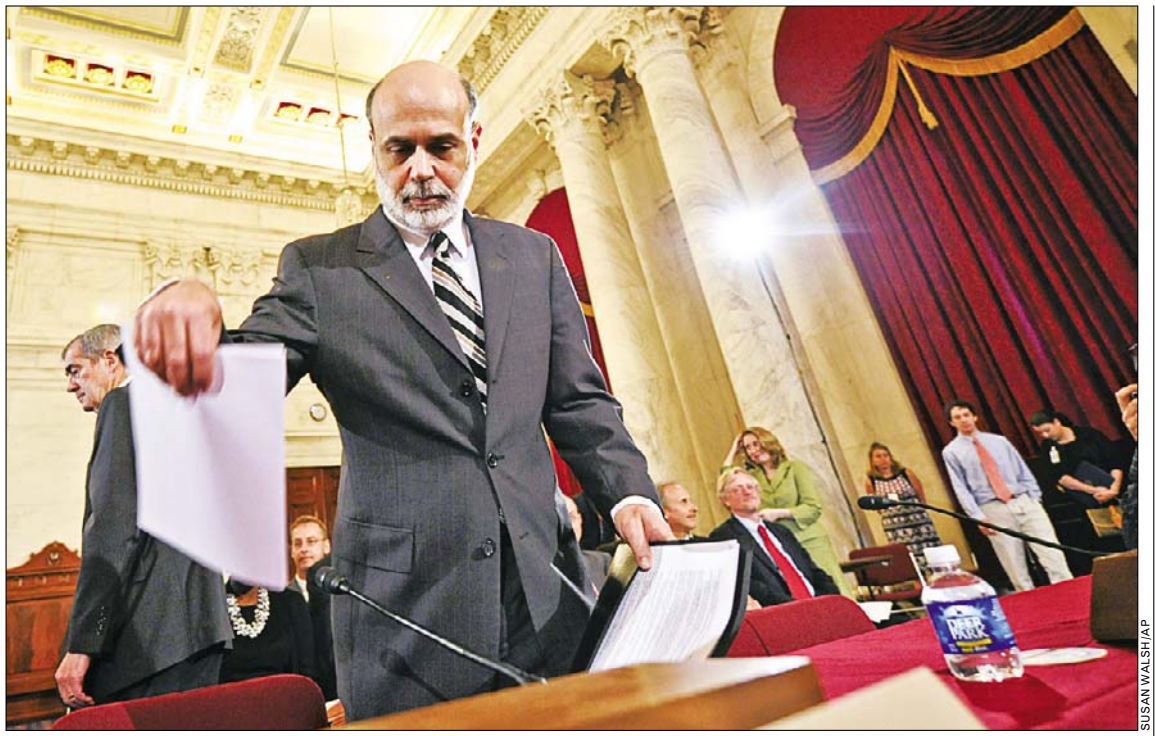
90%

The percentage of 9-year-olds who get two hours of exercise each day, the study found.

The sharp drop raises concerns about inactivity continuing into adulthood, which could endanger kids' health throughout their lives, the study authors said.

"People don't recognize this as the crisis that it is," said lead author Dr. Philip Nader, a pediatrician and professor emeritus at the University of California at San Diego.

The study, appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, tracked about 1,000 children from 2000 until 2006. (AP)



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke said the U.S. economy faces "numerous difficulties" in the months ahead.

Few Economic Fixes Left

Policymakers running out of ways to curtail financial downturn

WASHINGTON | U.S. leaders are running out of answers to America's economic crisis.

The Federal Reserve has no more practical room to push interest rates lower; there is only so much taxpayer money for shoring up housing, and if depositors lose confidence, there is little officials can do to stop a run on banks.

President Bush, speaking from a White House podium, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, in testimony to a congressional committee, sought on Tuesday to soothe jittery markets and reassure Americans that the U.S. financial system remains sound despite the current turmoil.

But they both tempered their remarks with warnings and expressions of uncertainty.

Bernanke warned that the U.S. economy faces "numerous difficulties," that the outlook for inflation is unclear and that "financial markets and institutions remain under considerable stress."

Bush told a news conference: "The president doesn't have a magic wand." He was answering a question about soaring fuel prices, but his remarks seemed to sum up the government's overall predicament.

After years of seeming tame, inflation is again on the rise, led by higher food and fuel costs. But the Fed, which usually fights inflation by boosting interest rates, finds itself unable to use that weapon any more — it already has pushed rates down to 2 percent in response to the housing crisis — without threatening to undermine an economy that is growing anemically.

With soaring budget deficits, swollen from the costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and increased spending on homeland security, there's only so much taxpayer money for bailing out failing financial institutions.

Stocks are in a bear market, and shares of banks and other financial companies have been pounded.

"I fear that we're sitting on a financial powder keg," Bernanke was told by Sen. Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, senior Republican on the Banking Committee.

Mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac hold or guarantee about half the home mortgages in the United States. Their stocks have lost about 80 percent of their value over the past year. Over the weekend, the two were thrown a lifeline by the Treasury Department and the Fed. But if investor jitters prevent them from being able to sell bonds to finance new mortgages, it could have far-reaching consequences. TOM RAUM (AP)

FUEL FALLING

→ Oil prices fell more than they have in 17 years Tuesday, as fears that record fuel prices are spreading broad economic pain exacerbated the third big sell-off in just over a week.

→ Light, sweet crude plunged $6.44, or 4.4 percent, to settle at $138.74 a barrel in an extremely volatile session. Prices at one point plummeted more than $10 from the day's high. (AP)

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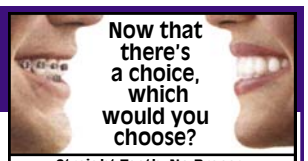

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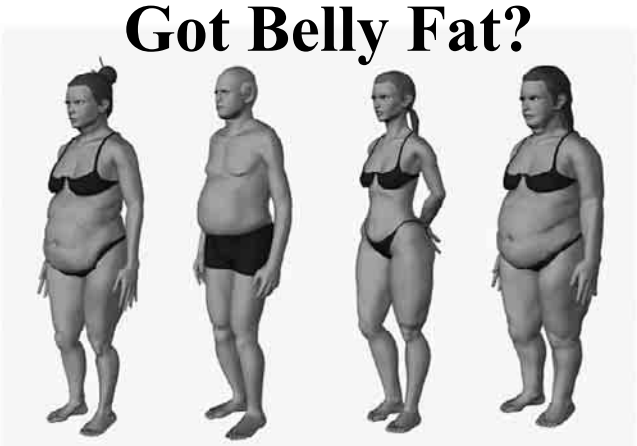

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Nation

SPONSORED: Several major airlines are hoping to offset rising fuel prices by displaying ads on boarding passes for customers who check in from home.

War Views Divide Rivals

Obama, McCain offer competing visions of military priorities

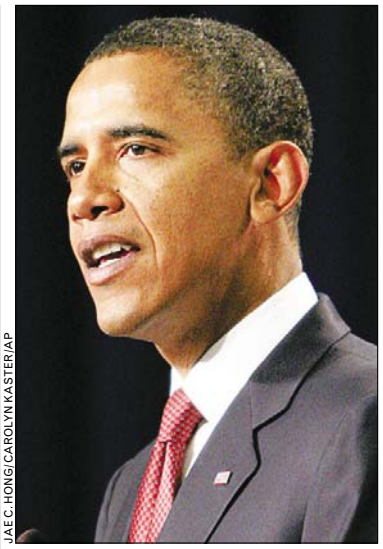
WASHINGTON | The two major presidential rivals sharpened their longstanding dispute over the Iraq war on Tuesday, with Democratic Sen. Barack Obama calling it a costly distraction that must end while Republican Sen. John McCain insisted it is a conflict the United States has to win.

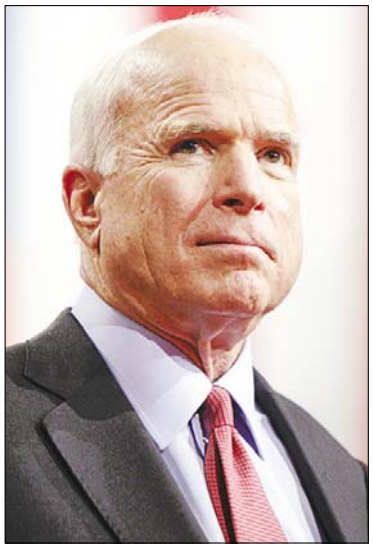
"Iraq is not going to be a perfect place, and we don't have unlimited resources to try and make it one," Obama said in a speech in which he also said the United States must shift its focus to defeating the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

Rebutting swiftly, McCain said Obama "will tell you we can't win in Afghanistan without losing in Iraq. In fact, he has it exactly backwards."

Obama pushed back against his rival's recent comments that the Bush administration's 18-month increase in troop strength in Iraq has been a success that warrants a change in position on the war.

"This argument misconstrues what is necessary to succeed in Iraq and stubbornly ignores the facts of the broader strategic picture that we face," Obama senator said.





J.A.E.C. HONG/CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain turned their attention to foreign policy Tuesday, debating the future of the United States' war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In reply, McCain belittled Obama, who he said was speaking about the war before traveling overseas.

"In my experience, fact-finding missions usually work best the other way around: First you assess the facts on the ground, then you present a new strategy," McCain said.

Obama said he stands by his longtime proposal to withdraw U.S. combat troops. "We can safely redeploy ... at a pace that would remove them in 16 months," he said.

McCain said Obama's assessment of the increase in troop strength was wrong. "The surge has succeeded. And because of its success, the next president will inherit a situation in Iraq in which America's enemies are on the run and our soldiers are beginning to come home." DAVID ESPO (AP)

The choice isn't clear: A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows American voters have doubts about both Barack Obama and John McCain. | **Post A Section**

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E-Verify is a free Internet-based system that gives employers the ability to confirm the legal working status of a new hire in seconds. E-Verify is a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). E-Verify works by allowing participating employers to electronically compare employee information taken from the Form I-9 (the paper-based employee eligibility verification form used for all new hires) against more than 425 million records in SSA's database and more than 60 million records in DHS immigration databases. More than 60,000 employers use E-Verify and 1,000 new employers are joining the program each week.

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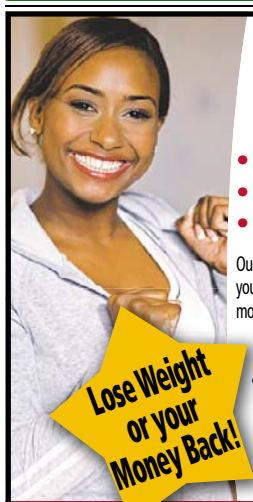

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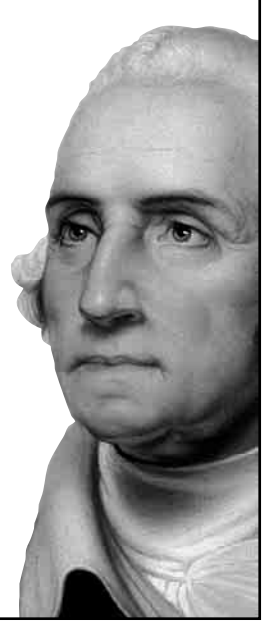

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Nation

18 **The percentage of Americans** who say they are happy with the job Congress is doing, according to a new AP-Ipsos poll, down from 23 percent in June.

GM Has Survival Strategy

Automaker plans cuts, layoffs, loans to weather downturn

DETROIT | General Motors Corp. said Tuesday it will lay off salaried workers, cut truck production, suspend its dividend and borrow $2 billion to $3 billion to weather a severe downturn in the U.S. market.

GM said the moves will raise $15 billion to help cover losses and turn around its North American operations, including $10 billion from internal cost-cutting and $5 billion from selling some assets and borrowing against others.

"In short, our plan is not a plan to survive. It is a plan to win," GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner said in a broadcast to employees.

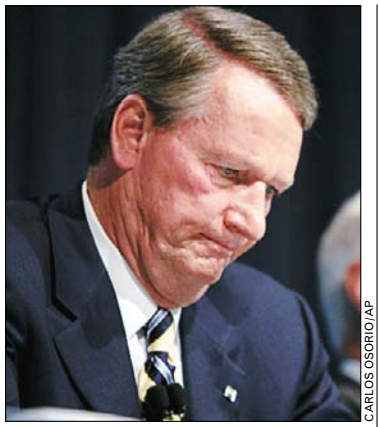
Chief Operating Officer Fritz Henderson said GM wants to reduce its total salaried costs in the United States and Canada by more than 20 percent.

A large chunk of the reduction, he said, would come from cutting health care benefits for salaried retirees over age 65. Those people would get a pension increase from the company's overfunded pension fund to help compensate for Medicare and supplemental insurance, the company said.

Several thousand jobs will be cut through attrition and retirements, and through early retirement and buyouts, Henderson said.

Wagoner said the company has not made early retirement offers to salaried workers for three or four years, and he would expect good acceptance of new offers, helping GM to reach its cost-cutting goal.

"I suspect the vast majority of the reductions will be accomplished through initiatives which do not require involuntary actions," Wagoner said. "Let's see how it plays out." TOM KRISHER (AP)



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner is leading the company at a tough time.

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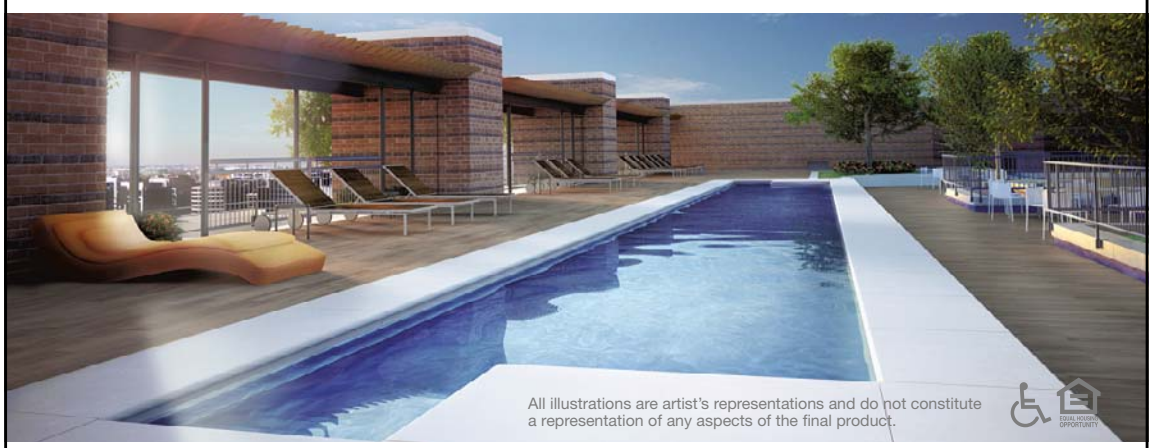

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BOZZUTO MANAGEMENT

CREATIVE DIPLOMACY: Iraq announced a competition on Tuesday to design a new national flag and is inviting artists inside and outside the country to submit their designs by the end of September. The parliament will vote on a new flag by the end of 2008.

World

Lawyers Release Video From Gitmo

Footage shows teenage detainee sobbing while being interrogated

TORONTO | Burying his face in his hands, a 16-year-old captured in Afghanistan sobs and calls out "Oh, Mommy!" in a hidden-camera video released Tuesday that provides the first look at interrogations inside the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay.

Lawyers for Toronto-born Omar Khadr released the tapes in hopes of generating sympathy for the young prisoner and to try to persuade the Canadian government to seek custody before he is prosecuted for war crimes at the U.S. special tribunal in Guantanamo later this year.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

- The seven hours of grainy footage, recorded over four days of questioning by Canadian intelligence agents in 2003, shows Khadr breaking down in tears.
- He pleads for help and shows wounds that he says had not healed months after his capture.

AP

Omar Khadr is shown in surveillance videos at the Guantanamo Bay prison.

The son of an alleged al-Qaeda financier, Khadr is accused of throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. Special Forces soldier during a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan. Khadr, who was 15 at the time, was found in the rubble of a bombed-out compound near death.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. William Kuebler, Khadr's U.S. military lawyer, said the video shows "a frightened boy" who should be permitted to return to Canada. A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cmdr. J.D. Gordon, denied that Khadr had been mistreated. CHARMAINE NORONHA (AP)

Blair Cancels Gaza Visit After Threat Warning

BEIT LAHIYA, GAZA STRIP | Mideast envoy Tony Blair on Tuesday called off what would have been the first visit of a top Western diplomat to Hamas-ruled Gaza, after Israel's Shin Bet security service said he might come under attack there.

Blair

The Shin Bet security service said it had received "pinpoint information that Palestinians were planning to attack Blair in Gaza, so the relevant services alerted him to the fact."

Blair told The Associated Press that the threat was "specific" and "credible," forcing him to postpone the trip. "I intend to go to Gaza as soon as I can," he said. (AP)

HEARSAY | DECISIONS

"Clearly, we opted for a resolution that fulfills our prime rule ... to bring ... our sons home despite the toll."

—**ISAAC HERZOG**, ISRAELI CABINET MINISTER, ON THE CABINET'S APPROVAL TUESDAY OF A PRISONER SWAP DEAL WITH HEZBOLLAH SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY.

AP

Iraqis carry a man injured in twin suicide attacks into a hospital in Baqouba, Iraq, Tuesday. At least 28 were killed by the blasts.

Twin Blasts Kill 28 in Iraq

Suicide bombers strike among army recruits in provincial capital

BAQOUBA, IRAQ | Scattered sandals and overturned bicycles were all that remained hours after suicide bombers struck the Saad military camp.

Medical staff had finished unloading the white body bags at the nearby hospital, where the wounded moaned on bloodstained floors and weeping soldiers kneeled over slain comrades.

The twin blasts in Baqouba recalled the scenes of mass terror and grief that were almost a daily routine before last year's steep decline in violence.

In an old tactic of Sunni extremists, two suicide bombers set off explosives among the army recruits Tuesday, killing at least 28. Violence also flared in the northern city of Mosul, where a dozen people died in bombings that targeted the Iraqi police and army.

The attack in Baqouba, the capital of Diyala province, came ahead of a planned Iraqi military offensive to halt attempts by militants to regroup in the volatile area northeast of Baghdad.

Late Tuesday, the U.S. military said a U.S. soldier was killed by a bomb while searching a house in the province Tuesday, but gave no other details.

Diyala is critical to Baghdad's security because of its strategic importance as an entrance to the capital and a threat to supply routes going north. SEBASTIAN ABBOT (AP)

In Brief

GUNNAR LUNDMARK/AP

Rescuers search through rubble after a theme park ride collapsed in Sweden.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Swinging Theme Park Ride Collapses, Injuring 30

A theme park ride collapsed Tuesday in western Sweden, injuring 30 people, officials said. Several people were thrown out of the swinging Rainbow ride at the Liseberg theme park in Goteborg and squeezed as the seating platform tipped to one side, city police spokeswoman Malin Sahlstrom said. The injuries ranged from bone fractures to shock, SOS Alarm rescue service spokeswoman Monica Grandin said. (AP)

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

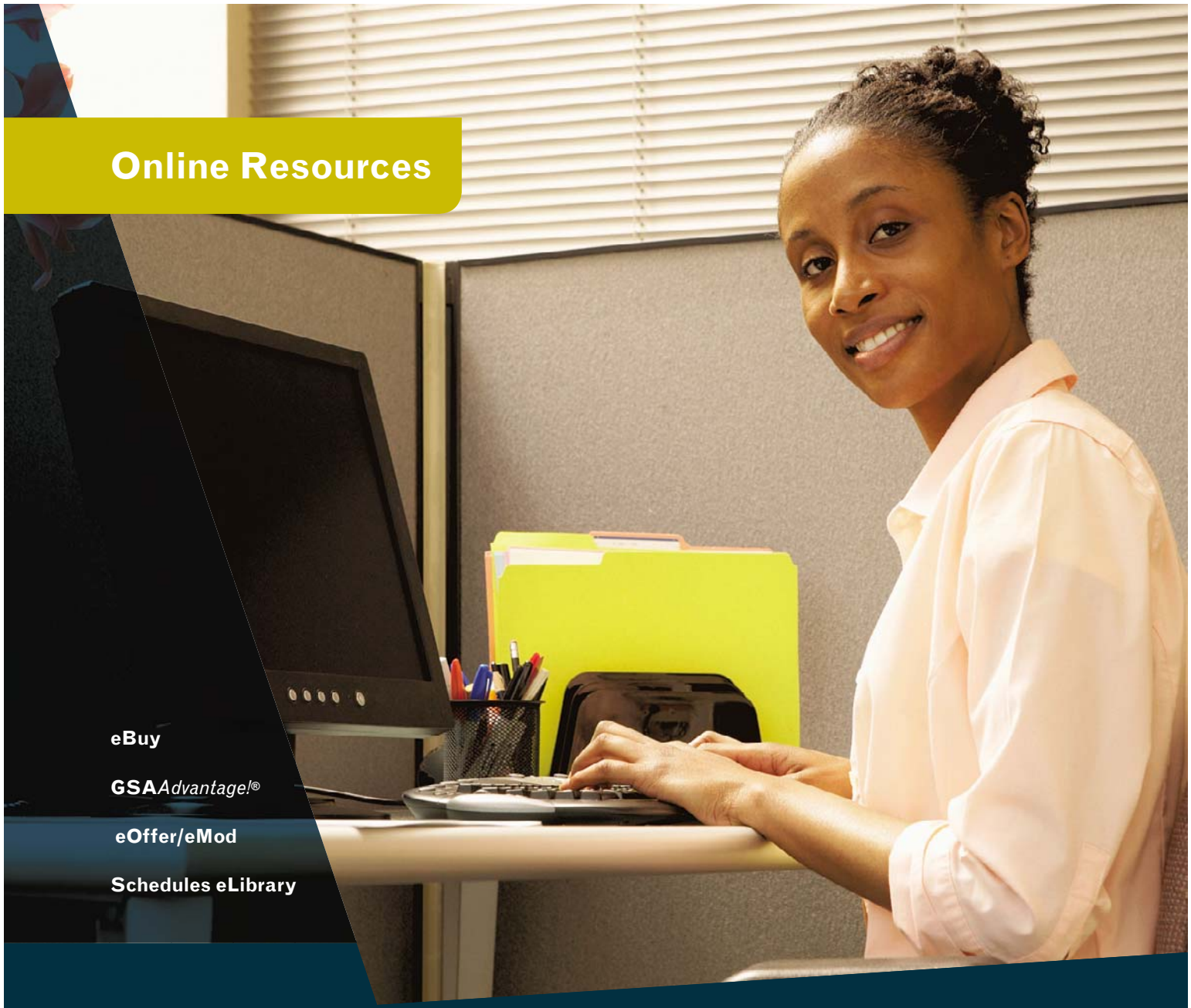
Iraq War Resister Who Fled To Canada Deported to U.S.

A U.S. Army deserter who fled to Canada three years ago was deported Tuesday to the United States, marking the first time a resister to the U.S. war effort in Iraq has been removed from Canada. Canada Border Services Agency spokeswoman Paula Shore confirmed that Robin Long, 25, was deported. Long fled to Canada in 2005 to avoid serving in what he called an "illegal war of aggression in Iraq." (AP)

SHANGHAI, CHINA

Sailing Site for Olympics Is 'Basically' Free of Algae

The site of the Olympic sailing competition is "basically" free of the bright-green algae bloom that recently carpeted the sea off the Chinese city of Qingdao, an official said Tuesday. The sea-blanketing algae bloom, which officials blamed on natural causes, had disrupted practice for the more than 30 Olympic sailing teams already there. The Chinese government had set a goal of clearing the area by Tuesday. (AP)



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World

Colombian TV Probes Drug Trade

Country's top-rated series based on feared cocaine traffickers

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA | The highest-rated TV show in Colombia follows a rather grim plot line: Boy meets girl. Boy smuggles tons of cocaine. Longtime pals betray each other. Everyone ends up dead or in jail.

Based on a former trafficker's tell-all book, "The Cartel of the Snitches" provides an insider's look at the Norte del Valle cartel, one of the most feared drug organizations in Colombia today. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the cartel has exported more than 500 metric tons of cocaine to the United States at a profit of more than $10 billion.

Criticism has been fierce. But nearly half of Colombia's TVs are tuning into the series. The success suggests a cultural shift in a nation where drug money has influenced all levels of society.

"The traffickers' culture has been adopted by people who are not traffickers but act like them: diplomats who run over people ... and police who break all the traffic laws because 'they are the authority'," said Eduardo Arias, a Colombian magazine editor. TOBY MUSE (AP)

HUNGARY | FRUIT FUROR

TAMAS KOVACS/MTI/AP

SMASHING TIME: Farmers destroy about 150 tons of watermelons outside the French retail chain Auchan near Budapest on Tuesday to protest against the store's low purchase prices.

100 | **The number of inmates at a Spanish jail** who heard a concert by the Madrid Symphony Orchestra on Monday as part of a four-year project to promote opera in prisons.

World

Sudan Unswayed by ICC

Capital seems tranquil a day after president is charged with genocide

KHARTOUM, SUDAN | Buoyed by support from the Arab and African world, Sudan's president showed no signs of giving in to pressure Tuesday after an international prosecutor sought his arrest for war crimes in Darfur.

Omar al-Bashir has emerged tarnished but apparently unbowed from the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court charging him with orchestrating a campaign that the U.N. says has killed 300,000 people and driven 2.5 million from their homes in Sudan's western region.

"This regime is not in crisis," said Mahjoub Mohammed Saleh, a respected analyst and co-founder of the independent newspaper al-Ayam.

Life flowed normally in the capital one day after prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo asked the Netherlands-based court to issue a warrant for al-Bashir's arrest. There were no mass protests or any hint of hasty evacuations by foreigners, U.N. officials or aid workers.

Khartoum's tranquility was broken only by a few hundred vocal al-Bashir supporters who rallied outside his palace.

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur announced it was temporarily relocating nonessential personnel to neighboring countries, but there were no figures immediately available on how many. HAMZA HENDAWI (AP)

KHALED DESOUKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Demonstrators protest against the International Criminal Court's decision to charge Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with genocide in Khartoum Tuesday.

Crohn's Disease?

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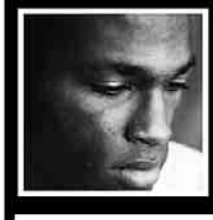

Still Depressed?

If you (or someone you know) have been diagnosed with major depression, you may be able to participate in this research study designed to decrease symptoms and better understand causes of depression. This study tests whether a new medication that targets a system called glutamate, compared with placebo, will be effective in improving depression. This is a 10-week inpatient study, in Bethesda, MD. After completion of the study the participant is given short-term treatment and transitioned back to the community. In addition, all research participation is without cost.

Patients should:
• Be ages 18-55
• Have been diagnosed with major depression
• Have taken an antidepressant that did not help

Transportation reimbursement provided.

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Money

NICK UT/AP

IndyMac customers in Encino, Calif., sit and wait on Tuesday as they try to get their money back from the bank. IndyMac was taken over by federal regulators last week.

Analysts: Nation's Banks a Safe Bet

Americans seem unfazed by last week's failure of IndyMac

CHARLOTTE, N.C. | In the nearly steady stream of bad news about banks, many consumers are likely wondering if any bank is really safe.

Those companies that did not go heavily into the subprime mortgage market are generally in better shape. But financial institutions of all sizes are nonetheless facing problems with souring debt, even if they haven't been hit hard like Wachovia Corp., or like IndyMac Bancorp Inc., which was taken over by the government last Friday.

Even so, earnings reports and an analyst's assessment of Wachovia Tuesday showed that financial companies are still suffering credit losses — and portended more bad news as more banks second-quarter results come out.

Yet analysts don't see consumers fleeing en masse from their current banks in search of safety elsewhere. IndyMac customers were lining up for their money despite government assurances it was safe, but so far, that seems to be an isolated case.

"Yes, there was a bank failure. Yes, there was a lot of people wanting to get their money. But I don't think there is any sort of distrust in our banking system," said Keefe Bruyette & Woods analyst Jefferson Harralson. "Some banks, as it is right now, are just more risky than others."

> "The FDIC works. I think consumers can rest easy that their deposits are insured."
>
> **BART NARTER**, ANALYST AT CELENT

Bart Narter, senior analyst at Celent, a Boston-based financial consulting firm said, "If people pull out their money in one bank, they will put it in another bank."

"The FDIC works," Narter said, referring to the government's Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. "I think that consumers can rest easy that their deposits are insured."

IEVA M. AUGSTUMS (AP)

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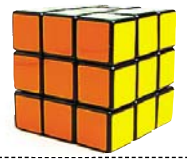

OPENING DOORS: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., will change its admissions test to be more conducive to students who aren't native English speakers. The new test's verbal section will focus less on vocabulary and more on reasoning.

Local

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Bus Company Suspends Shuttle Service After Deaths

A sightseeing bus company is suspending its shuttle service to Washington Nationals games following the deaths of two riders. The two men were riding on the upper deck of the Open Top Sightseeing bus when their heads struck the bottom of an overpass on Friday. Both men died from their injuries. Jim Rodio, an attorney for Open Top, says the company is "deeply saddened by the accident and the loss of life." (AP)

LEESBURG, VA.

Loudoun to Develop Rules To Protect Against Sinkholes

Loudoun County officials have decided to develop new land use regulations to protect residents from sinkholes. Dozens of sinkholes have opened up in recent years. Many of them were less than a foot wide, but officials say at least two were 30 feet wide and 30 feet deep. Another in 2005 created a chasm in the middle of Route 15. No one has been hurt. County officials say the problem stems from rapid development of land that rests on soft, porous limestone. (AP)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, July 15

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-6-9
Mid-day DC 4	7-5-5-1

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	6-5-5
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	1-2-8
Mid-day Pick 4	8-5-2-1
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	0-5-8-0
Match 5 (Mon.)	11-22-23-28-38 Bonus: 10

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	2-8-9
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	2-0-5
Mid-day Pick 4	0-2-9-4
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	7-7-1-0
Mid-day Cash 5	4-6-9-14-18
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	6-9-25-33-34

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

18 D.C. Housing Inspectors Fired

City agency pledges to quickly replace half of its code enforcers

District officials Wednesday fired more than half of the city's housing code inspectors, citing an "inexcusable neglect of duty," and pledged to quickly hire a fleet of well-trained workers to protect tenants in dangerous apartment buildings.

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs chief Linda Argo issued pink slips to 18 of the city's 34 residential inspectors, who are charged with ensuring that rental properties are clean, safe and well-maintained. For months, DCRA has faced criticism for failing to cite landlords for shoddy conditions or following up when problems are noted. The lack of enforcement came at a time when tenants across the city complained that landlords were allowing buildings to fall apart so they could empty rent-controlled apartments and convert them into condominiums.

Argo, appointed in mid-2007, announced last year that inspectors must become certified by the International Code Council, a trade organization whose residential and commercial building standards are used by cities nationwide. Argo said certification is a crucial step to professionalizing DCRA's inspection force and ensuring that inspectors are well-trained on industry standards.

Argo imposed a one-year deadline and offered 40 hours of training, study groups, books and vouchers to cover the cost of the test. By the June 30 deadline, however, 18 inspectors had not complied.

"This was not the outcome we had hoped for, but the goal remains the same, and we must keep moving forward," Argo said.

DEBBIE CENZIPER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

MAYOR'S APPROVAL

- Argo's decision was backed by Mayor Adrian Fenty, who has taken a series of steps in recent months to clean up dilapidated rental properties and crack down on abusive landlords.
- In June, Fenty announced a first-ever push for regular inspections of every rental property.

JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Jessica Salsbury, center, a lawyer with immigrant advocacy group CASA of Maryland, hugs a domestic worker in Rockville, Md.

'Nanny Bill' Approved in Mont. Co.

Montgomery County residents who hire nannies, housekeepers or cooks for more than 20 hours a week would be required to offer them a written contract that spells out working conditions such as wages and benefits, under legislation passed Tuesday that the County Council believes is the first of its kind in the nation.

In most cases, residents would have to provide live-in help with a separate room, with a lock, for sleeping as well as "reasonable access" to a bathroom, kitchen and laundry room.

County Executive Isiah Leggett, a Democrat, plans to sign the measure, said his spokesman, Patrick Lacefield.

Employers would be required to offer a written contract within six months after the bill becomes law.

The bill, approved unanimously by the County Council, would cover in-home domestic workers who put in more than 20 hours a week for at least 30 days.

The "nanny bill," as it became known, is meant to set out clearer expectations between employers and employees and protect some of the county's "most vulnerable workers," said council member Marc Elrich, D-At Large, one of the measure's co-sponsors.

Council member George L. Leventhal, D-At Large, another co-sponsor, said: "What could be more important than caring for our children? But all too often these workers are not treated as professionals."

ANN E. MARIMOW (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Md. Bus Fleet to Go All Hybrid

O'Malley wants state transit buses to be diesel-electric models

BALTIMORE | Gov. Martin O'Malley wants Maryland's entire fleet of transit buses to be diesel-electric hybrids.

O'Malley announced Tuesday that he has directed the Maryland Transit Administration to purchase only hybrid buses in the future as older buses powered only by diesel fuel are taken out of service.

The state says hybrid buses use up to 20 percent less fuel and are up to 40 percent quieter.

They're also more reliable, going 6,200 miles between service calls, compared with 3,000 miles for diesel models.

There are currently 653 buses in the MTA fleet, and 10 are hybrids.

MTA spokeswoman Jauwana Greene says the agency has received approval to buy up to 100 hybrids per year starting next year.

She says if buses are replaced at the usual rate, there should be about 500 hybrids in the fleet by 2014. (AP)

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Cars

DANNEIL/LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Fiat 500 — Europe's 2008 Car of the Year — revives the classic look of the post-war Nuova 500. The U.S. could benefit from this car's remarkable fuel economy.

Fiat Fuels Its Way to Glory

Europe's 2008 Car of the Year would be welcome in the U.S.

SUPER-EFFICIENT | Cute? Think a bunny in bib overalls, a box of bright yellow Easter chicks, a cement mixer full of Christmas kittens. Oh, my God. The Fiat 500 — also known as Cinquecento, which is Italian for coed flypaper — is about as adorable as it gets.

A loving and faithful riff on the classic rear-engine Nuova 500 of postwar Italy, the 500 yanks the same heartstrings of misty nostalgia as the BMW Mini and Volkswagen New Beetle. The operative alchemy is to take the shape, the profile, the conformation of a historic car, in every sense an icon, then make it bigger, enamelize it with modern aerodynamics, instill a sense of winking irony to it, and stick it on a cheap, well-sorted platform.

The 500 is based on the Fiat Panda platform and is, mechanically, an unremarkable front-drive subcompact with remarkable fuel economy. With gas selling for around $8 per gallon on the Continent, the Panda has been a big hit for Fiat. The 500 — Europe's Car of the Year and a kind of Panda with a post-grad education — has been even bigger.

The prospects for the Fiat 500's (built in Poland, by the way) being sold in the United States are pretty iffy, but the odds are improving. In the current climate, a small, super-efficient car with global charisma — one that undercuts the BMW Mini — might present Fiat with, as they say in certain quarters, an offer it cannot refuse.

DAN NEIL (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

NUTS & BOLTS

→ THE 2008 FIAT 500

$19,000

Powertrain: 1.2-liter SOHC inline four-cylinder; 1.4-liter DOHC inline four; 1.3-liter turbocharged and intercooled diesel engine; five- and six-speed manual transmissions | **Wheelbase:** 90.6 inches | **Measurements:** 139.8 inches long | **Horsepower:** 68 at 5,000 rpm | **Torque:** 107 at 3,000 | **EPA Fuel Economy:** 36 mpg city, 53 mpg highway

INDY CAR: Colts fans are bidding on a chance to ride a roller coaster with Colts defensive captain Gary Brackett. Bidding stood at $315 Tuesday afternoon, less than 24 hours before the auction was slated to end. The money will go to Brackett's charity organization.

Sports

Can Sergio Continue Spain's Streak?

'El Nino' has yet to win a Major but is favored to win the British

GOLF | They are calling it the "Spanish Summer" of sports here in the British Isles, what with Spain's dramatic victory over Germany in the European Soccer Championship last month and Rafael Nadal's stunning triumph over Roger Federer in arguably the greatest men's final in Wimbledon history two weeks ago, a month after he also beat him for the French Open title.

Does that mean this is now the time for Sergio Garcia, Nadal's good friend and countryman, to finally break through for his first victory in a major golf championship starting Thursday at the 137th British Open at Royal Birkdale?

"I hope so," Garcia said Tuesday. "It would be great. But I know what I have to do and, hopefully, it will be good enough."

Where would a Garcia victory in the oldest major of them all rank in relation to soccer and tennis back home?

"Without a question, the football [soccer]," Garcia said. "In Spain, football is the biggest."

And between Garcia and Nadal? "Me."

No one has ever accused Garcia, 28, of a lack of modesty or confidence. The former "El Nino" sure sounded very much like the grown man British bookmakers have installed as the favorite, at odds of 11 to 1.

"I feel like my game is probably as good as it's ever been" Garcia said.

MATT DUNHAM/AP

Sergio Garcia is the favorite to win this week's British Open. Last year, he missed an eight-foot par putt on the 18th and then lost the tournament in a four-hole playoff.

"I don't feel complete, or completed, but I feel like I'm getting closer. I feel good with my game. I feel good with myself. I feel like I'm getting better as a player every tournament I go around.

"The most important thing for me is to give myself a chance on Sunday. Sometimes it happens. Sometimes it doesn't, but at least be out there and feel like you have a chance of winning."

Garcia has had multiple chances to win major championships, particularly in the British Open. He has 13 top-10 finishes in majors, six of them in the British, his favorite tournament. In 2006, he played in the final group with Tiger Woods at Royal Liverpool in Hoylake, but shot one-over 73 and tied for fifth.

Last year at Carnoustie, he also was in the last group and needed only to par the 18th hole to prevail in regulation. Instead, his seemingly perfectly struck eight-foot putt for par just missed on the right edge, and he lost by a shot in the four-hole aggregate playoff.

"Obviously, Sunday night and Monday were a little tough, " he said. "Other than that, you think about the week, you think about everything you did, and you realize that you did the best you could."

LEONARD SHAPIRO (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Join in the Conversation

➜ Leonard Shapiro handicaps the field at the British, and John Feinstein breaks down the most prestigious tournament in golf. Chime in online | **All Week, Sports**

washingtonpost.com

Defending Golf Champ Battles Wrist

Harrington cuts back on practice round, says he'll be ready Thursday

GOLF | First, Tiger Woods. Now, Padraig Harrington?

The defending British Open champion is plagued by a sore right wrist, which forced him to cut back a practice round Tuesday and raised doubts about whether he will be able to tee it up in the tournament. Harrington insisted he'll be ready on Thursday — with one caveat.

"Obviously, I have to manage it between now and then," the Irishman said after scaling back to chipping and putting over the final nine holes of his practice session. "I've got to make sure I don't do anything to it. If I do nothing to it between now and Thursday, I'll be able to play."

The Open can sorely afford to lose another top player. Woods, a three-time British champion and the world's No. 1 player, is sitting out the rest of the year to recover from knee surgery. Another leading American, Kenny Perry, decided to skip the tournament despite winning three of his last five events.

Despite taking a couple days off, Harrington was clearly not at full strength during his first practice round of the week at Royal Birkdale. He played the front side but made sure to avoid hitting any shots out of the thick rough. At the turn, he was checked by a doctor and decided to just work around the green over the final nine holes.

When asked how his wrist felt, Harrington said, "Fuzzy. Tingly. I was weak in the wrist, and that's why I didn't play the back nine." (AP)

In Brief

NHL

Bank Sues Capitals' Fedorov For More Than $2M in Loans

A bank is suing National Hockey League and Russian national ice hockey team veteran Sergei Fedorov, saying payments have stopped on more than $2 million in loans. Citizens State Bank filed a lawsuit Monday against Fedorov, a three-time world champion with the Soviet Union and Russia who played the Detroit Red Wings for 13 seasons but now plays for the Washington Capitals. (AP)

NFL

Bears Sign RB Kevin Jones

The Chicago Bears have signed running back Kevin Jones to a one-year deal. During four years with Detroit, Jones rushed for 3,067 yards and 24 touchdowns. The former Virginia Tech star was drafted by Detroit in 2004. Terms of Jones' deal Tuesday were not disclosed. Last season, Jones rushed for 581 yards and a career-high eight touchdowns. (AP)

NFL

Cowboys S Gets $39M Deal

Cowboys safety Ken Hamlin won't have to wait until after the season for a long-term contract. The Cowboys and Hamlin agreed Tuesday on a $39 million, six-year deal that includes a $9 million signing bonus and guarantees the Pro Bowl safety about $15 million. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

BASEBALL (7 P.M. ON ESPN2) Start your 2009 fantasy baseball research early by watching the AAA All-Star Game from Louisville, Ky.

WIZARDS (8 P.M. ON COMCAST) The Wizards' young stars play Philadelphia's young stars in a Las Vegas summer league game.

CYCLING (8:30 A.M. ON VERSUS) After the first of two rest days, the Tour de France starts back up with Cadel Evans in the lead.

BOXING (11 P.M. ON COMCAST) Normally, boxing doesn't crack the TV lineup. But Hasim Rachman versus James Toney sounds like fun.

Sports

NOT EXACTLY TITLETOWN: The last link to Philadelphia's championship history is destined for destruction. The Spectrum, once home to title-winning 76ers and Flyers teams, will close in 2009 and be demolished to make way for an entertainment development, the arena owner announced Tuesday.

Acta Preaches Team-First Attitude

Manager tries to hold talent-shallow Nats together with discipline

NATIONALS | Last month, when things looked darkest for the Washington Nationals, Manny Acta sat his club down and had a talk.

He'd seen good baseball and he'd seen bad baseball, and, lately, it was far too much of the latter. The manager has come to believe through his time growing up in the Dominican Republic and his years as a minor league manager that no matter the talent discrepancy between one team and the next, there are certain things that can bridge the gap. That's where his talk began.

"It was about taking care of the team, the next guy," Acta said. "A catcher throws a ball in the dirt? Block the ball, don't let it go to center. Back up second base. Just take care of the whole team."

JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

It hasn't always been an easy season for Nationals manager Manny Acta, whose team has been plagued with injuries and has few players who are overachieving.

Acta harps on these things because, even when his team is at full strength, he knows that the nine players the Nationals put on the field usually aren't as skilled as the nine guys who oppose them.

The short-term effect was apparent. Hours after the speech, the Nats went out and scrapped and delivered a victory on a walk-off hit in the bottom of the ninth.

The long-term dividends are still playing out. Though the Nats responded immediately, their luck didn't hang around. After more injuries, they hobbled back into Nationals Park this week on a five-game losing streak and bearing the worst record in Major League Baseball. They lost four of six before the All-Star break.

The pressure now is on Acta. By all accounts, his job is not in jeopardy. No manager could be expected to compete for a pennant with the lineup Acta has been given. But with his revolving door roster of largely unproven players, the impetus for success is disproportionately placed on Acta's shoulders. So, maybe he'll have another talk. And maybe another after that. And maybe, at some point, it will finally sink in.

"These guys didn't hear all of the thousand preach-and-teaches I did last year," he said. "They probably have only heard 200 so far, so they need to keep hearing it." DEREK TURNER

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33.4 | **The amount, in millions of dollars,** AC Milan will pay for star soccer player Ronaldinho. The midfielder left Barcelona on Tuesday after the coach said he wasn't needed.

Sports

Favre 'Tempted' by Camp

Saga continues with QB saying he wants to call Packers' bluff

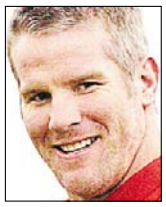
NFL | Brett Favre says he's tempted to show up at the Green Bay Packers' training camp just to call the team's "bluff."

In the second part of an interview with Fox News, the 38-year-old quarterback said he knows his arrival in camp would cause a media circus, but that might not stop him. Packers players are scheduled to report July 27.

"It's tempting just to, as everyone said, you know, call their bluff or whatever," Favre said, according to an excerpt provided to the AP. "I think it's going to be a circus in itself already, whether I go there, whatever."

The interview on the show "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren" was to be broadcast Tuesday night.

Favre, a three-time MVP, says he feels "a little bit" bad for would-be successor Aaron Rodgers and insists he doesn't want to be a distraction to his teammates. Or are they his former teammates?



Favre

"I like my teammates," Favre said. "I had a lot of fun with them. I have talked to numerous guys throughout this whole ordeal. I wish them the best, I really do. ... I don't want to make it any worse than it is."

And right now, it's pretty bad. Favre and the Packers appear headed toward a messy divorce after Favre demanded his release last week. The decision blindsided the Packers. They were open to Favre's return for much of the offseason — even after Favre's retirement in early March — but had since committed to moving forward with Rodgers as their starter.

Favre conceded that the latest in his long line of reversals on his football future has been tough on Rodgers, the Packers' first-round pick in 2005.

"The one thing in this, I do feel bad for Aaron a little bit," Favre said. "I think he'll do a fine job, to be totally honest with you, I do. ... This has nothing to do with him, this whole deal." CHRIS JENKINS (AP)

Colts Are Depleted as Season Nears

Manning's recent knee surgery is just the tip of the iceberg in Indy

NFL | Peyton Manning's streak of 160 straight starts doesn't appear in serious danger after minor knee surgery.

But the superstar quarterback's medical problems — an infected bursa sac in his left knee — only adds to the long injury list the Indianapolis Colts will face when they open training camp July 25.

Not only will Manning be unavailable, but so will defensive end Dwight Freeney (foot), wide receiver Marvin Harrison (knee) and safety Bob Sanders (shoulder), the NFL's defensive player of the year last season.

The Colts say Manning can make a "full and complete return" in four to six weeks after undergoing surgery on Monday. That means, at worst, he can open the season against Chicago the night of Sept. 7, when the Colts unveil their new stadium in a replay of the 2007 Super Bowl. Given Manning's durability, there's a chance he could play the last exhibition game or two.

TOM STRETTMAN/AP

Peyton Manning underwent minor knee surgery Monday and is out for up to six weeks.

"There is no sense of any untoward condition with this," team president Bill Polian told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Still, it leaves the Colts with Jim Sorgi as the only experienced quarterback when the team goes to training camp. Also on the roster are Josh Betts, Ben Roethlisberger's backup at Miami of Ohio, who spent last season on the practice squad, and Adam Trafalis, an undrafted rookie from San Jose State.

Polian said he will not sign another quarterback.

Manning has started every game in the 10 years he's played in the NFL, with his consecutive starts second to Brett Favre's 253. If Favre makes good on his intended desire to return, his streak could be extended — or broken.

"I'm going into my 11th year. I'm 32, but I really feel I'm in a younger body than that," Manning said last week. "I feel I'm in a 28-year-old body because I've had great protection from my offensive line." DAVE GOLDBERG (AP)

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Travel

IDIOTIC IDEAS: The Idiot's Guide series is capitalizing on the idea of a "staycation," publishing "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Backyard Adventures." One idea: an "insect safari" in your backyard.

The Hunt for a Ghost Town

History buffs explore old cities out West for a mysterious vacation

TRIPS | The howling wind across a remote landscape, a creaky metal gate or a run-in with a rattlesnake or gun-toting local are the things that attract ghost towners. They are history buffs who take their outdoor adventures with a dash of mystery.

Just as traditional outdoors enthusiasts enjoy mountaineering or hiking, and tech-minded gadget lovers enjoy geocaching, ghost towners have their own agenda: seeking out, documenting and photographing towns that one day will cease to exist.

"We are a subset of the outdoors culture," said Clint Thomsen of Stansbury Park, Utah, who writes newspaper columns about the ghost towns he visits. "If you're willing to drive around 200 miles along dirt roads and find something that's definitely crumbled, you're definitely part of the breed."

Ghost towns are prevalent in the West with 100 to more than 200 per state, but even states in the Midwest and several Eastern states have between 10 to 100 ghost towns apiece, said Todd Underwood of Prescott, Ariz., who hosts a Web site for ghost towners. He began exploring ghost towns in 1976 with his father.

"We were really fascinated as to how and why people would just up and leave towns. We were steeped in the mystery of that," he said.

HEATHER CLARK (AP)

HEATHER CLARK/AP

NOTHING LEFT: Monument Peak, which some old-timers call Lizard Mountain, looms over what's left of the ghost town of Lake Valley in southern New Mexico.

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THE DEATH KNELL OF HARD ROCK? Metallica is releasing a new album! Wait, that's not the news. Metallica is releasing a new album ("Death Magnetic"), and its companion "Guitar Hero III" download at the same time! Strum on, basement rockers!

Entertainment

BRAVO

ONCE AGAIN, THEY MAKE IT WORK: The judges and contestants of the fifth season of "Project Runway." Oh, and Tim Gunn.

Fabric of Society

'Project Runway' is back, and there's still just as much to love

AUF WIEDERSEHEN | "This is 'Project Runway,'" says Heidi Klum on Wednesday night, and without further ado, we are into Season 5 of the gold standard of reality competitions — winner of a Peabody Award! — and the possibly soon-to-be-extracted jewel in the Bravo diadem: Subsequent to a day in court, it is slated to move next year to Lifetime, into whose gynocentric weltanschauung it will less compatibly fit. But I would guess that the fans will find it, wherever it is.

It is always the same and always different. Here again is the ruling troika of "top American designer" Michael Kors; Nina Garcia, now an Elle "editor at large" rather than its fashion director; and Klum, your average German supermodel mother of three. Over the coming weeks they will winnow 16 bright-eyed contestants to three glassy-eyed finalists. And then there will be one.

And here again is the redoubtable Tim Gunn, a teacher among judges. Although he has been mocked by those he is there to mentor, Gunn is the one they are allowed to love and the person they are most likely to listen to, if they listen to anyone.

The difference this time comes with the competitors. Some seem to resemble players we've seen before — the cocky one, the quiet one, the tattooed blonde and so on — but they will individuate with time. If the show has a dramatic arc, it's not in the way that the characters develop but in the way that we come to see them better — as, with every passing week, there are fewer of them to see and more clothes to judge them by. It is by their works that you shall know them.

The first of their labors, after the designers check into their dorm suites, sniff the competition and share some rooftop champagne with Tim and Heidi, is a repeat of the very first "Top Runway" challenge: to make a dress from materials found at a grocery store. The solutions range from the inspired and unpredictable to the "And how did you get here exactly?"

Many watch for the personal drama — the fits and the snits, the alliances and antipathies, the nervous breakdowns and explosions of ego — and rate each season by how much trashy drama it generates. That's one way to read the show, and while I regard that as a kind of fabulous accessory, what makes the show worthwhile is this: Excellence is exciting, and in a world in which the dross so often rises to the top, it is useful to be reminded that there are people with the gift of making a little into a lot, instead of the other way around. ROBERT LLOYD (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Like Cheese and Fine Wine

The Hold Steady's new album shows it has improved with age

ALBUM | You can almost hear the narrow-minded cries: "The Hold Steady have sold out!"

Hardly.

The Brooklyn-based five-piece has added plenty of polish and lower the volume knobs to great effect on its fourth disc, "Stay Positive."

Dynamic arrangements, crisp production and added instrumentation have not diluted their hard riff inclinations or depth of storytelling. If anything, they seem more focused and mature — all the more welcome with the disc's theme of aging gracefully.

Singer/guitarist Craig Finn's voice is more poignant throughout, and his lyrical scope still appeals to the better angels in all of us: "There's gonna come a time when the true scene leaders/will forget where they differ and get 'big picture'/Because the kids at the shows will have kids of their own/and the sing-along songs will become our scriptures," he wails on the title track.

PHOTO COURTESY HOLD STEADY

The members of Hold Steady have stayed true to their music all this time.

They use contagious horn arrangements on "Sequestered in Memphis," keep the sing-along frenzy going with the ironic "Magazines" and offer melodic mid-tempo tracks with "Lord, I'm Discouraged" and "Joke About Jamaica."

Contrary to its name, the Hold Steady just keeps getting better. JOHN KOSIK (AP)

Today's Top Stops

FOR MORE TOP STOPS AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES, VISIT READEXPRESS.COM

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

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1 Cashing in on the perennial interest in the battle of the sexes, "Defending the Caveman's" title leaves little doubt which side its author comes out on. A lone man ruminates on life and heterosexual relationships while holding a large spear. But in his defense, he's hit on one of the funniest things one can talk about, and he mines it for every joke.

→ *Bethesda Theatre, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 8 p.m., $34-$50; 301-657-7827. (Bethesda)*

RON BLUNT

PIG FARM

Four Legs Good

2 When we have the Capital Fringe Festival in town, we tend to forget about the Contemporary American Theater Festival, which is much farther away. "Pig Farm," a comedy skewering the farming industry, is worth the drive.

→ *Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W. Va.; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., $30; 304-876-3473.*

GREEN MIC

Earth Poetry

3 Environmental issues are being plugged to the public every which way these days, but none is more creative than "Green Mic" at the Kennedy Center, a forum on global warming.

→ *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 6 p.m., free; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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Entertainment

FIRST THE LEOPARD, NOW THE STAMP: A set of U.S. postage stamps will be released today honoring the stars of early black cinema. Films featuring Josephine Baker (a 1920s icon who kept a pet leopard) and Duke Ellington will be honored.

Acting Outside the Box

Oldman's reputation was built on bad guys, but no more

VILLAIN | In some earlier parallel universe of Batman's Gotham City, it might have been Gary Oldman instead of Heath Ledger cackling and conniving as the maniacal Joker.

Nowadays, Oldman is dogged, upright cop Jim Gordon in Batman's world or the solicitous Sirius Black, surrogate father to Harry Potter.

This is not your father's Gary Oldman, the actor who built his reputation on such characters as prince of punk-rock anarchy Sid Vicious, presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald or Dracula himself.

In fact, Oldman has kind of become your father — a pillar of paternalism, a symbol of saintliness. The man you want covering your back, rather than the one you would never turn your back on.

With his second turn as Gordon in "The Dark Knight," Oldman, 50, feels as though he has finally broken ranks with the bad boys and put to rest his role as a go-to guy when filmmakers needed a villain.

"No, I don't hear it anymore. I mean, look, Rolling Stone said, 'Oldman is so skilled he makes virtue look exciting,'" Oldman said. "You know what? That's the best review I've ever had. ... I'll put that on my tombstone. 'Makes virtue look exciting.' That's pretty good.

"In the past, I've had my share of good reviews, but it's always the crazy, scary, weirdo guy. I don't even know how it happened."

It started when Oldman landed the lead in "Sid and Nancy" as self-destructive Sex Pistols bass player Sid Vicious. By the 1990s, his characters had turned into a full-blown rogue's gallery.

Even Christopher Nolan, director of "The Dark Knight," had villainy in mind for Oldman, whom he was thinking of casting as a bad guy.

"But meeting him, it just seemed much more interesting to get him to play a really good guy, which I hadn't seen him do before," Nolan said. "He's done plenty of roles in the past with an obvious degree of intensity, and he's done it quite skillfully. To do it from the position of a very muted, restrained individual who's very good, has a lot of integrity, but is struggling with the same things everyone else is struggling with in this story, that's pretty amazing to watch."

Christian Bale, who returns as Batman, said people tend to remember actors more for nastier roles.

"Everyone's intrigued by a bad guy," Bale said. "When you play good guys, it doesn't stick in people's heads quite as much. But Gary's a phenomenal actor, and that means he's not just good at playing a villain or a bad guy. He's great across the spectrum. ... talented enough to play every kind of character under the sun." DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

MATT SAYLES/AP

AND STILL DASHING! Gary Oldman is branching out from past villain roles.

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Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG) ★ (1130 145 400) 615 830 1045
MEET DAVE (PG) (1100 115 345) 630 845 1115
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (1045 1145 130 230 415 515) 700 800 945 1045
HANCOCK (PG-13) (1015 1100 1145 1215 1245 115 145 230 300 330 415 445 515) 600 630 700 730 815 900 930 1000 1030 1115
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1015 1245 315) 615 715 845 1015 1115
WALL-E (G) (1030 1130 100 200 330 430) 600 830 1100
GET SMART (PG-13) (1000 1235 315 545) 815 1100
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) (1115 215 500) 745 1030
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (1045 130 345) 645
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D 900 PM
CURIOUS GEORGE (G) (1000) AM
HAIRSPRAY (PG) (1000) AM

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14
20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (1115 1200 200 245 430 515) 715 800 1000 1045
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ★ (1145 215 445) 715 945
MEET DAVE (PG) (1200 230 500) 745 1015
HANCOCK (PG-13) (1130 1215 1245 130 200 230 300 400 430 500 530) 700 730 800 900 930 1000 1030
OC & DA: HANCOCK (PG-13) (1100) 630
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (1100 130 400)
WALL-E (G) (1115 100 145 345 445) 645 745 915 1015
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 215 515) 815 1045
GET SMART (PG-13) (1100 145 415) 700 945
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) 645 930
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (1245 330) 630
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) 915 PM

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
MEET DAVE (PG) (1130 210 500) 740 1020
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ★ (1150 220 450) 720 950
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (1100 140 420)
HANCOCK (PG-13) (1200 110 150 230 350 430 510) 630 710 750 900 940 1020
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 240 520) 700 800 1000 1040
WALL-E (G) (1120 120 200 400 440) 650 730 930 1010
MONGOL (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 310) 610 915
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG-13) (1110) AM
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (1130 410) 640 910
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) (1220 320) 620 920

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG) ★ (1200 230 500) 730 1005
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (1110 115 155 400 440) 700 740 945 1025
MEET DAVE (PG) (1220 250 520) 750 1020
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (1035 110 340)
OC & DA: HANCOCK (PG-13) (100) 600
HANCOCK (PG-13) (1050 1150 1230 135 220 300 330 410 450 530) 640 720 800 830 910 1000
WALL-E (G) (1100 105 145 350 430) 630 710 950
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1040 125 420) 725 910 1010
GET SMART (PG-13) (1035 120 405) 650 935
LOVE GURU (PG-13) 940 PM
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) (1120 210 510) 810
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (1140 210 445) 715
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1145) 610
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) 620 920
IRON MAN (PG-13) (310) 930
ARCTIC TALE (G) (1000) AM
SHREK THE THIRD (PG) (1000) AM

Free Family Film Festival - Today 10AM

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ★ (Stadium) (1030 1245 300 520) 740 1030
RW & DA: HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (Stadium) (1235 330) 635 915
MEET DAVE (PG) (Stadium) (1035 1255 310 530) 800 1015
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (Stadium) (1100 145 430) 750 1030
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (Stadium) (1105 125 345) 610
HANCOCK (PG-13) (Stadium) (1040 1120 1150 1225 110 140 215 250 340 410 445 510) 630 700 730 755 850 920 950 1020
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (120 400) 645 745 930 1025
WALL-E (G) (Stadium) (1055 1130 1250 130 200 320 350 450) 615 655 905 945
GET SMART (PG-13) (Stadium) (150 425) 720 955
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) (Stadium) (125) 1005
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (Stadium) (1045 100 335) 640
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) 910 PM
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) (Stadium) (1035 420) 710

Free Family Film Festival Tue, Wed & Thu 10AM

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG) ★ (1120 200 430) 720 950
MEET DAVE (PG) (1115 140 410) 705 945
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (1100 140 230 420 510) 700 750 940 1030
OC & DA: HANCOCK (PG-13) (120) 630
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (1125 145 405) 625 845
HANCOCK (PG-13) (1140 1210 1240 210 240 310 340 440 520 550) 710 740 820 850 930 1010
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1245 220 330 450) 650 745 935 1020
WALL-E (G) (1200 1250 150 250 350 435 530) 640 730 810 910 1000
GET SMART (PG-13) (1220 320) 610 900
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) (100 345) 635 920
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (1105 130 355) 620 840
ARCTIC TALE (G) (1000) AM
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1135 300) 615 925
SHREK THE THIRD (PG) (1000) AM
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) (1255 425) 725 1015
IRON MAN (PG-13) (1230 325) 655 1005

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

FOX STADIUM 16
22875 Crawford Plz, Asburn, VA 703-957-1035

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (Stadium) (1140 220 500) 740 1020
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ★ (Stadium) (1120 200 430) 720 950
RW & DA: HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (Stadium) (1230 400) 650 930
MEET DAVE (PG) (Stadium) (1100 115 330) 630 900
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (Stadium) (1105 125 350) 620 840
HANCOCK (PG-13) (Stadium) (1110 1200 1215 1245 130 230 315 415 515) 600 645 745 830 915 1015
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (Stadium) (1145 245) 700 845 1000
WALL-E (G) (Stadium) (1130 1215 100 215 300 345 445 530) 615 730 815 1010
GET SMART (PG-13) (Stadium) (1220 345) 625 925
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) (Stadium) (1250 340) 640 920
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (Stadium) (145 440) 715
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) (Stadium) (1210 310) 610 910

Free Family Film Festival Tue, Wed & Thu 10AM

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG) ★ (1145 220 445) 715 940
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (1100 1130 135 215 415 500) 700 745 945 1035
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (1135 200 430) 710
WALL-E (G) (1115 1230 115 150 300 345 425 530) 615 705 800 845 935 1030
LOVE GURU (PG-13) (1105) AM
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) (125 410) 725 1025
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG-13) 950 PM
SEX AND THE CITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 340) 655 1010
IRON MAN (PG-13) (120 420) 720 1020

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale MAMMA MIA (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) ★
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH 3D (PG) ★ (1145 215 445) 700 930
MEET DAVE (PG) (1000 100 345) 615 845
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG-13) ★ (145 230 430 515) 715 800 1000 1045
KIT KITTREDGE: AMERICAN GIRL (G) (1150 250) 610
HANCOCK (PG-13) (1030 1115 1200 1230 115 200 245 330 415 500 545) 600 630 730 830 900 945 1030
WANTED (R) - ID REQ'D (1050 150 450) 750 1040
WALL-E (G) (1015 1100 1245 130 315 400) 645 745 915 1015
GET SMART (PG-13) (1220 340) 710 950
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13) 910 PM
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) (1215 300) 640
INDIANA JONES: THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL (PG-13) 1010 PM

Times For 7/16 Bargain Matinees In ( ) OC= Open Captioned RW=RWC Available DA= Descriptive Audio Available DP= Digital Projection * Pass/Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply ©2008 www.REGmovies.com

SO KATE HUDSON WILL BE PLAYING ...AN ITALIAN? Kate Hudson has signed on to star in the movie musical "Nine." She joins Daniel Day-Lewis, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench and Penelope Cruz in this adaptation of Fellini's masterpiece "8 1/2."

Entertainment

'Partie' of the Year

Black Kids' stunning debut album is what you're looking for

ALBUM | The Black Kids are, with their debut album "Partie Traumatic," instantly the coolest "kids" in music. They've taken everything modern and relevant — from Killers-esque vocals to non-retro synth work — and rolled it into one of the best albums of the year without a sour track in sight.

They ought to sell iPods with this permanently burned into the memory so you'll never lose it. Who knew Jacksonville, Fla., could produce a band this fun?

The vocals on the title track, "Partie Traumatic" are smart without being smarmy. A jangled, funk-infested guitar supplies the energy while spooky synthesizer sounds dance around the aural foreground. "This jungle is massive/ So please don't be so passive/ Be impressive, impress us/ And they will get the message," goes the opening salvo.

"Listen To Your Body Tonight" is in overdrive from the very beginning. The band digs in heavy from the first note and never lets up on this memorable songs about following your sexual intuition.

Part of the appeal of the Black Kids' approach is that they nail the technical delivery of each song on all fronts. The vocals, for the most part, sound like The Cure's Robert Smith on helium. If the music was understated, it wouldn't work as well, but the songs have a habit of coming to a crescendo nicely and giving lead singer Reggie Youngblood a platform on which to soar.

If they are to be faulted for anything, it's for being a little too hook-heavy. But at least the hooks are good. Most of the songs are about sex and love and sprinkled with randy language throughout, so tender ears beware. RON HARRIS (AP)

JIM DYSON/GETTY IMAGES

Reggie Youngblood of "Black Kids."

amc Experience the Difference

Advanced Ticketing at MovieWatcher.com

See it first – Tickets on sale now! THE DARK KNIGHT Opens July 18th

AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40

Shrek the Third (PG)
$1.00 Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 1:10, 4:05, 7:20, 10:25
MEET DAVE (PG) 12:00, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10
HANCOCK (PG13) 1:00, 2:20, 3:00, 3:40, 5:00, 5:40, 6:20, 7:40, 8:20, 9:00, 10:05, 10:45
HANCOCK (PG13) 📼 CC 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
WALL-E (G) 12:05, 12:40, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:40, 5:20, 5:55, 8:05, 8:40, 10:40
WANTED (R) 12:25, 1:45, 3:25, 4:30, 6:30, 7:10, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00, 10:35
GET SMART (PG13) 1:30, 2:35, 4:25, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:55
THE LOVE GURU (PG13) 12:10 PM
THE HAPPENING (R) 8:00, 10:15
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG13) 12:20 PM
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 12:55, 4:15, 7:25, 10:30
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 1:55, 4:55, 7:55
IRON MAN (PG13) 1:05, 4:00, 7:35, 10:25

AMC SELECT
KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G) 12:15, 2:50, 5:25

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:05

Shrek the Third (PG)
$1.00 Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20
MEET DAVE (PG) 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
HANCOCK (PG13) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
HANCOCK (PG13) 📼 CC 11:15, 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00
WALL-E (G) 12:40, 2:00, 3:20, 4:40, 6:00, 7:15, 8:30, 10:00
WANTED (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
GET SMART (PG13) 11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 11:05, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 10:10
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 7:05, 10:15
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

AMC SELECT
KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G) 11:25, 1:50, 4:25

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
MEET DAVE (PG) 12:20, 2:50, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10
HANCOCK (PG13) 12:30, 2:10, 3:00, 4:45, 5:30, 7:10, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30
WALL-E (G) 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:10, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:00, 9:55
WANTED (R) 1:40, 4:25, 5:10, 7:20, 8:10, 9:50, 10:35
WANTED (R) CC 1:40, 4:25, 7:20, 9:50
GET SMART (PG13) 2:25, 4:40, 5:15, 7:50, 8:05, 10:35
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:00, 2:20
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 12:05, 3:10, 6:50, 10:15
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 4:50, 10:25
IRON MAN (PG13) 1:50, 7:40

AMC SELECT
THE WACKNESS (R) 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:20
KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G) 12:10, 2:45

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ✓ 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

Shrek the Third (PG)
$1.00 Summer MovieCamp ✓ 10:00 AM

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) ✓ 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10
HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 📼 CC ✓ 12:45, 3:35, 6:30, 9:20
MEET DAVE (PG) ✓ 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
HANCOCK (PG13) 12:40, 1:15, 1:45, 3:00, 3:45, 4:15, 5:30, 6:15, 6:55, 7:30, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30
WALL-E (G) 1:30, 2:05, 3:55, 4:30, 6:40, 7:15, 9:15, 9:45
WANTED (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:20, 7:35, 9:10, 10:25
GET SMART (PG13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05
THE LOVE GURU (PG13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10
THE HAPPENING (R) 6:50, 9:25
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 9:35
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG13) 1:55, 4:45
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 7:05, 9:55
IRON MAN (PG13) 1:10, 4:05

AMC SELECT
KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G) 1:50, 4:20

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) ✓ 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40
GET SMART (PG13) 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:00, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20
THE LOVE GURU (PG13) 10:10 PM
THE HAPPENING (R) 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:35
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 1:50, 4:50, 7:50
IRON MAN (PG13) 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

Shrek the Third (PG)
$1.00 Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05
JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
MEET DAVE (PG) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
HANCOCK (PG13) 12:15, 12:45, 1:35, 2:30, 3:15, 4:05, 5:00, 5:45, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 10:00
WALL-E (G) 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15
WANTED (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
GET SMART (PG13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:00
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

AMC SELECT
GONZO: THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. HUNTER S. THOMPSON (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
THE WACKNESS (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
MONGOL (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
THE FALL (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
THEN SHE FOUND ME (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:50, 10:00
ROMAN DE GARE (R) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:10
THE VISITOR (PG13) 1:40, 3:50, 7:40, 9:55

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

HANCOCK (PG13) 12:30, 2:45

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ✓ 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) ✓ 11:30, 12:45, 2:15, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:25, 10:00, 11:10
MEET DAVE (PG) ✓ 12:05, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45
HANCOCK (PG13) 10:35, 11:15, 12:00, 12:55, 1:35, 2:25, 3:15, 3:55, 4:55, 5:45, 7:25, 8:05, 9:50, 10:25, 11:05
WALL-E (G) 10:30, 12:00, 1:00, 2:25, 3:30, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:55
WANTED (R) 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40, 10:55
WANTED (R) 📼 CC 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40
GET SMART (PG13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 11:25, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 10:40
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 1:20, 4:35, 7:40, 10:50
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 11:05, 1:50, 4:50, 8:00, 10:45
IRON MAN (PG13) 9:35 PM

AMC SELECT
KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G) 10:50, 1:55, 4:40, 7:15

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20
HANCOCK (PG13) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15
WALL-E (G) 12:25, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:05
WANTED (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
GET SMART (PG13) 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:20, 2:30, 4:50
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 7:00, 10:10
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH (PG) ✓ 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 1:00, 2:45, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
MEET DAVE (PG) ✓ 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:25
HANCOCK (PG13) 12:05, 1:15, 2:25, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:15, 8:45, 9:50
HANCOCK (PG13) 📼 CC 8:00, 10:30
WALL-E (G) 12:50, 2:10, 3:20, 4:40, 5:50, 7:10, 8:20, 9:40
WANTED (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 8:40, 10:10
GET SMART (PG13) 12:20, 1:45, 3:05, 4:25, 5:45, 7:05, 8:25, 9:45
THE LOVE GURU (PG13) 1:10, 3:25, 5:40
THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG13) 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 12:45, 3:05, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG13) 2:00, 4:55
YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN (PG13) 📼 CC 2:00, 4:55
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 1:20, 4:25, 7:35, 10:40
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG13) 2:05, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
IRON MAN (PG13) 10:35 PM

AMC SELECT
KIT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL (G) 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:15

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HANCOCK (PG13) 1:15, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50
WALL-E (G) 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:00
WANTED (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:15
GET SMART (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10
KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 1:10, 3:10, 5:20
SEX AND THE CITY (R) 7:30

Times for Wednesday, July 16, 2008

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Entertainment

AP

THE BEATLES' OTHER, LESS FAMOUS GEORGE: Beatles Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney and George Harrison with George Martin at Abbey Road Studios in 1995.

Recording Our Lives

Beatles producer wants to know how music affects society

MAVEN | George Martin's superlatives are, well, super.

He produced almost all of the Beatles' recordings, acting as a mentor to John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr during their careers. He's also worked with Gerry & the Pacemakers, Jeff Beck, America, Cheap Trick and other acts. He's won six Grammy Awards, including two for "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," and is a recipient of the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1996. In 2006, working with his son, Giles Martin, he helped develop the Beatles-inspired Cirque du Soleil show "Love" in Las Vegas, which won him his two most recent Grammys.

But Martin, 82, has moved on to his next act. He's working with PBS and Wildheart Entertainment to film "On Record: The Soundtrack of Our Lives," a documentary series with the ambitious aim of chronicling the history of recorded music and its impact on society. It will feature archival performances and interviews with artists from all genres, including Enrico Caruso, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Loretta Lynn and Jay-Z. It will air in the fall of 2010.

How did you come to be involved with "On Record"?

I guess it's been about five years — I've done quite a lot already. It's a big project, enormous. And it's a very important project, I think. I don't think there's anything quite like it that's been done before. I was very interested in the background and the history of how sound recording developed. It was a profound business — that suddenly, for the first time, people could hear other people on record. It's difficult for us to comprehend what that meant. Before then, nobody ever heard music, unless it was there [live]. It was a fundamental change, I think every bit as important as the invention of the motor car. It changed our lives and, in fact, it affected us so much that we cannot imagine music being absent from our lives. [It's there] constantly. Probably too much now.

You think so? How can you have too much music?

I think if you've got an iPod and you're walking across a busy street and ignoring all the traffic.

ANN DONAHUE (BILLBOARD)

RONALD REAGAN WON THE U.S. CONTEST. SERIOUSLY: A state-owned Russian TV channel is running a competition in which Russians choose their greatest countryman. Nicholas II is currently in the lead, but murderous dictator Stalin is catch-

Television

ON TV TONIGHT

FROSTY WAS A MYTH
MYTHBUSTERS (8 p.m., Discovery): unthawing snow legends.

OUT OF SEASON
A tough reporter (Patricia Heaton) follows a sentimental story about Santa Claus in the 2001 holiday tear-jerker **A TOWN WITHOUT CHRISTMAS** (8 p.m., Lifetime).

MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE
Scheduled on **NOVA SCIENCENOW** (9 p.m., PBS): language and genes; weather in space; robots and the disabled.

PSYCH!
Now here's a family reality series with a twist. **MOTHER MAY I** (9 p.m., and 9:30 p.m., Discovery Health) follows young adults with serious issues (unemployment, obesity, stress, etc.). They agree to take advice from a "life coach" under the condition that they get all of their suggestions and affirmations by text messages and don't meet their mentor until their makeover concludes. At the end of every show, the subject discovers that his or her secret guru was really his or her mother!

LEAN, MEAN GRILLING MACHINE
In yet another celebrity series, **FAMILY FOREMAN** (10 p.m., TV Land) follows former boxer and heavyweight champ George Foreman as he interacts with his extended brood. Even if you don't follow boxing, you probably know Foreman from his many commercials and appearances for the ubiquitous indoor grill that bears his name. The leap from infomercial to reality show is both natural and predictable.

STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

BUT NOT IN THIS DRESS: Maggie Gyllenhaal is on "Letterman" tonight.

BATGIRL
Maggie Gyllenhaal, Neil Young and the Hold Steady appear on **LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN** (11:35 p.m., CBS). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Spotlight on Cleveland

One of TV's beloved black characters is played by a white guy

VOICED | A "Family Guy" spin-off show featuring the character of Cleveland Brown is mixing up its voice cast, ethnically speaking.

Mike Henry, who is white, will continue to provide the voice for Cleveland on Fox's new animated series. Joining Henry in the cast will be black actors Sanaa Lathan, Nia Long and Kevin Michael Richardson.

Fox programming chief Kevin Reilly said the casting wasn't provoked by ribbing that the network has taken for a black role voiced by a white actor.

"Mike's been doing that character for a long time, so we knew going in that was a fix; we're going to have a white guy," he said at a Television Critics Association meeting, responding to a reporter's question.

"But, clearly, the idea was just to make an ethnically diverse show in front of and behind the camera, which we are," and to create a largely black cast for the Brown family, Reilly said.

Lathan will play Cleveland's wife, Donna, while Long will voice the character of rebellious stepdaughter Roberta. In a color-blind casting move, Richardson will play the part of Lester, described as a "redneck."

"Cleveland" follows the Browns as they move to Cleveland's Virginia hometown and encounter neighbors including Lester, a family of bears and a British family enamored with the Victorian era, Fox said.

The show is set for a 2009 debut.

LYNN ELBER (AP)

FOX

LIKE "THE COSBY SHOW," BUT FUNNY: Cleveland and family, made famous by "Family Guy," will get their own spin-off (tenatively titled "Cleveland") on Fox.

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Miles Glass Company EOE

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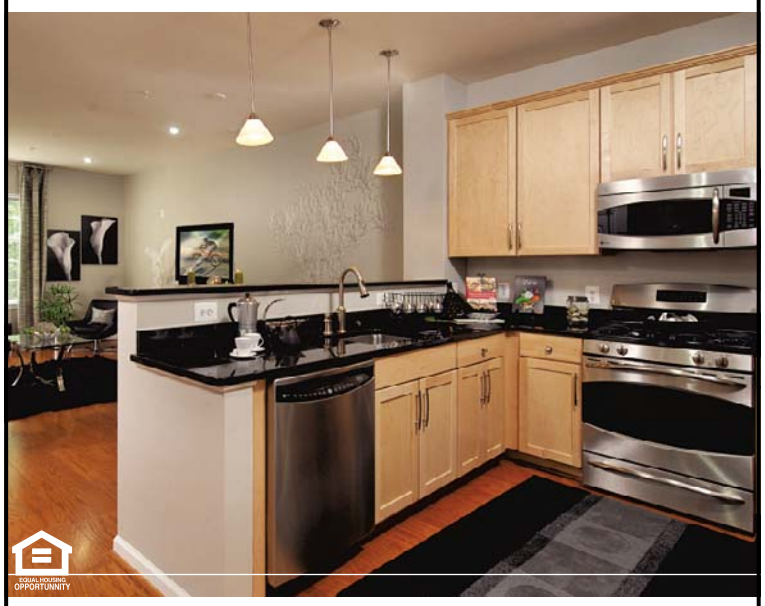

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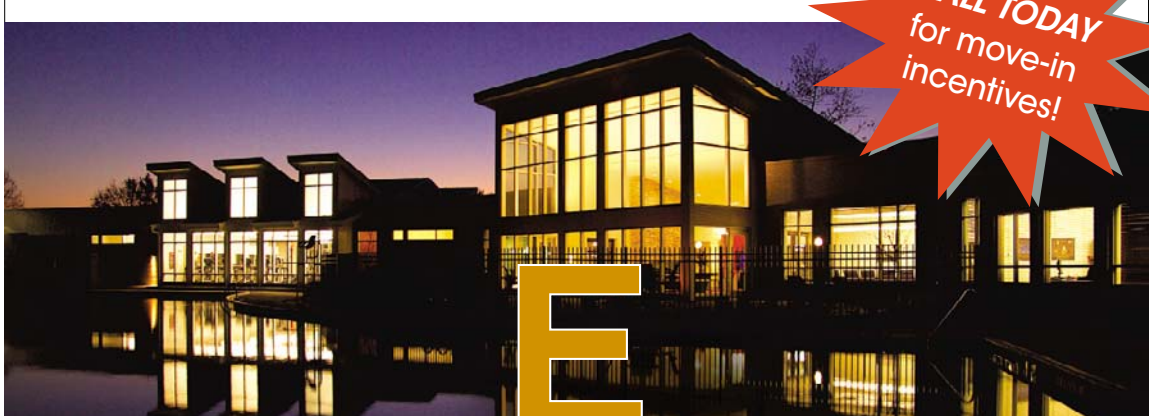

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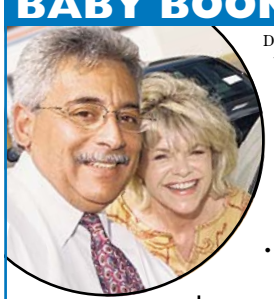

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LANHAM—Furn rms for rent in SFH. Nr Metro. $150/wk incl utils. Security Deposit req'd. **Call 301-339-4396**

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RENTALS

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PLYMOUTH 1995 VOYAGER - Auto, V6, 3.3 li, family car, 121K mi, runs/looks great, a/c, $1400. Call 202-744-7187

Toyota 2007 Prius — $27500, Mint cond, 23k mi, Gray int, Silver ext, 4 dr, alloy wheels, Buckets, ABS, alarm, CD, 703-474-8165

Toyota 2005 Camry XLE Auto, V6, full power, sunroof, lthr, am/fm cd, htd seats, new tires, 1 owner, 49K, gar kept. $14,500. Call **703-743-5077**

Toyota 1997 Camry — XLE V6, $5995, Exc. cond, 89.5k mi, Tan/leather int, Silver ext, CD Plyr, Pwr Seats, Snrf/Mnrf, Md. Insp. 240-832-9425

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Look out

TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

Jon Voight has more grandkids | 34

Styles: Lazy people can have flat abs | 31

Discussion: The New Yorker and Obama | 32

Bicycle Kingdom

Culture

Two-wheeled travel is still a mainstay of modern-day China

AP

RUSH HOUR: Commuters with bicycles, electric bikes and mopeds cross the street in Shanghai, China. Relatively inexpensive bicycle transportation is incredibly popular in China, despite the fact that some cities ban bikes from many main streets.

For a vivid insight into the clash of old and new in China, follow the bicycle.

Morning rush hour in Beijing and Shanghai used to be rivers of cyclists flowing in a majestic hush down broad bike lanes. Today, many of those lanes have been taken over by cars and buses, their roar and honks drowning out the tinkle of bicycle bells.

Yet despite China's leap into modernity, the bicycle is far from dead — its numbers are growing. For many Chinese, pedal power remains a mainstay — for commuting, sending children to school or making a living.

And getting around the traffic jams.

As the Chinese fall in love with cars, and Westerners fall out of love with them, China is once again a winner. According to the Earth Policy Institute, a Washington-based environmental think tank, of the 130 million bikes manufactured worldwide last year, China made 90 million and exported two-thirds of them. About nine in 10 bikes Americans buy are made in China.

In China, the bicycle's enduring role epitomizes the country's wider transitions — from countryside to city, from planned economy to freewheeling capitalism. Multiplying cars may be a sign of affluence, but the bike's staying power is a reminder that most of China's 1.3 billion people have yet to make it into the middle class.

In the shadows of Shanghai's skyscrapers and towering elevated highways, it is bicycle wheels that have enabled migrants like Wang Chunliang to make the great leap from countryside to the big city.

Tan and sturdy, the 30-year-old hauls flowers and garden supplies from an outdoor market to upscale Shanghai homes on a three-wheeled bicycle cart called a "sanlunche" (pronounced san-loon-chuh). That and a little gardening earn him about $300 a month — enough to live on and support his family in rural Anhui, hundreds of miles away.

"Compared with some jobs, this isn't too bad. And it's a decent living," says Wang, shrugging off the perils of traffic and bad weather.

In Shanghai and other cities, pedal-pushing rural migrants can be seen everywhere, delivering goods, gathering waste for recycling or peddling anything from popcorn and pirated DVDs to books and baby rabbits.

The millennia-old Middle Kingdom can claim to have invented many things — fireworks, the umbrella, paper and the compass among them — but not the bicycle.

> "The bicycle will never be obsolete."
>
> **CHEN HAIMING**, GENERAL MANAGER, SHANGHAI FOREVER CO.

According to Amir Moghaddass Esfehani, a historian at the Technical Institute of Berlin, the Chinese first learned of bicycles from a customs official named Binchun who visited Paris in 1866 and wrote of Parisian vehicles made of "two wheels with a pipe in the middle."

For the Beijing Olympics, the city is offering visitors 50,000 bicycles for rent, but many bike pathways in Beijing and Shanghai have been taken over by right-turn and bus-only lanes.

Shanghai's 10 million bikes are banned from many main streets. The riverside bike paths so familiar in Western cities are nonexistent.

"This is a question of government policy," laments Chen Haiming, who is an engineer and general manager at Shanghai Forever Co., China's biggest bicycle maker. "In Europe, they are building bicycle pathways and encouraging people to commute by bicycle. But not here."

Yet Chen is confident that despite China's enchantment with the automobile, bicycles are here to stay.

"The bicycle will never be obsolete," he says. "No matter how well developed the automobile and aircraft market grows, the bicycle still has its purpose."

ELAINE KURTENBACH (AP)

AP

LOOK out

Character Development

Entertainment

New video game technology makes each moment unique

In the upcoming video game "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed," the evil Stormtroopers are smart enough to keep players guessing.

Throw something at the white-armored troopers, and they may toss a grenade back. Or they might just put their hands up. Or they could do something completely new each time the game is played.

Video games used to come pre-programmed with canned movements that expert players eventually could anticipate and figure out. But recent advancements in video game design — and new game consoles with dazzling computing power — have endowed computer-controlled characters with a sense of self-preservation and unpredictability not seen even a year ago.

The "Star Wars" game, which publisher LucasArts will show off at this week's E3 Media and Business Summit in Los Angeles, is just one of the games offering this advanced degree of realism. Game designers say this increasing sophistication is helping to put their medium on par with movies as a form of mainstream entertainment.

ELECTRONIC ARTS/AP

In the game "Spore," players design creatures that evolve in unpredictable ways.

"I think you connect to these characters much more," said Torsten Reil, co-founder and chief executive of Britain's NaturalMotion Ltd., the company that developed technology used to breathe life into characters in the "Star Wars" game.

Called "euphoria," the technology generates animation on the fly, so each moment in a game is unique. The first game to feature it was Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.'s "Grand Theft Auto IV," whose April debut rivaled — and in dollar terms bested — blockbuster movie openings.

Designers say this sophistication is helping to put their medium on par with movies as a form of entertainment.

NaturalMotion grew out of research Reil and colleague Colm Massey did at Oxford University on the way animals and humans move. The resulting technology creates 3-D character animation in real time, simulating the way the body moves, so it looks authentic.

Other games deepen their measure of surprise by going in a different direction — abandoning realism.

For example, "Spore," from "Sims" creator Will Wright, immerses players in a world where not only the main character, but also the game universe itself is the product of their imaginations.

Players design a creature that evolves over several levels — which are games in themselves — into beings capable of intergalactic travel. Because no two characters are the same, each will evolve in a different way.

That's a big contrast to traditional games, in which the main characters, be they James Bond or Lara Croft in "Tomb Raider," are prebuilt by the developers.

"Goldeneye 007," launched in 1997 for the Nintendo 64, was the first in which g amers encountered enemies that could react to what the players were doing, said Libe Goad, the editor in chief of AOL's GameDaily.biz site.

"If you shot at them, they got out of the way," she said. "Before, they would just stand there, which made the game easier, but it wasn't necessarily a realistic experience."

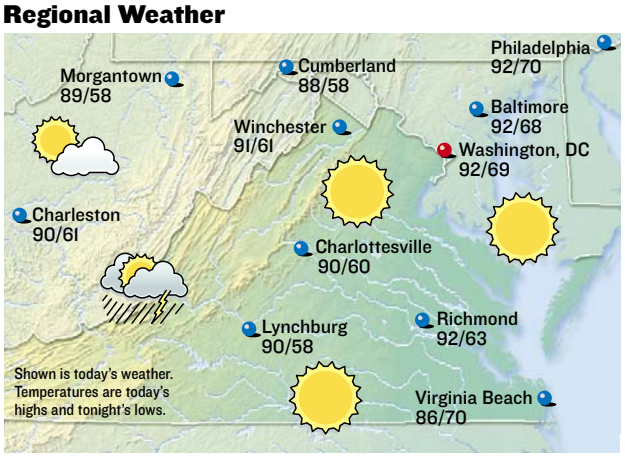
Reil expects future games to get still more unpredictable. For instance, computer-controlled characters might carry on conversations with their human opponents.

"There are so many other areas we are not really addressing," Reil said. BARBARA ORTUTAY (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny	Clear	Mostly sunny, hot, humid	Mostly sunny	Afternoon t-storm possible	Partly sunny, t-storm possible
92°	69°	94° / 72°	94° / 73°	88° / 74°	93° / 73°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues.

Temperature

High	89°
Low	69°
Normal high	88°
Normal low	70°
Average humidity	43%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.25"
Normal month to date	1.75"
Year to date	29.97"
Last year to date	16.44"
Normal year to date	21.02"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: **washingtonpost.com/weather**

Regional Forecast

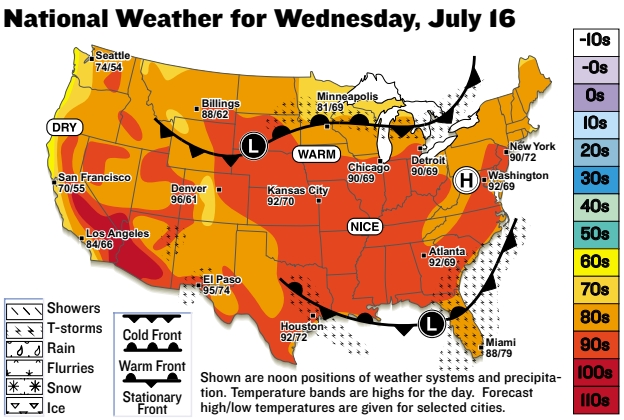
D.C. Metro: Today, sunny. High 92. Wind east 6-12 mph. Tonight, clear. Low 69. Wind south 4-8 mph. Thursday, mostly sunny. High 94.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	5:56 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:32 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:46 p.m.
Moonset today	4:00 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
July 18	July 25	Aug 1	Aug 8

National Weather for Wednesday, July 16



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	92/69/s	88/70/pc
Boston	85/68/s	85/69/s
Chicago	90/69/pc	92/69/pc
Dallas	96/73/pc	96/75/s
Denver	96/61/pc	88/58/t
Honolulu	88/75/s	89/75/s
Los Angeles	84/66/pc	84/66/pc
Miami	88/79/t	90/81/t
New York City	90/72/s	94/76/s
Orlando	86/73/t	92/74/t
Seattle	74/54/s	74/54/s

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	68/55/c	63/55/sh
Athens	86/70/s	86/70/s
Berlin	72/52/t	70/52/c
Buenos Aires	75/55/pc	64/48/sh
Calgary	63/43/t	69/47/t
Dublin	64/52/pc	64/52/r
Geneva	76/60/pc	71/59/pc
Moscow	86/64/pc	81/64/pc
Rome	84/61/s	84/63/s
Sydney	63/46/s	68/48/s
Tokyo	82/76/t	89/77/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

GLENN KOENIG/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Shaping Up

You can get a flat tummy without doing a single crunch

Welcome back, summer. It's time to show off some skin in tiny tank tops and spaghetti-strap slip dresses.

But summer skimpies are a winter figure's worst nightmare. And that means body shapers to the rescue. I strapped myself into five modern-day corsets to see which could best mold floppy flesh into a beach body. Ratings: 5 stars — a must have; 4 stars — a good addition; 3 stars — take it or leave it; 2 stars — in a pinch; 1 star — not even if you're desperate.

★★★

1. Yummie Tummie Freedom T
($72, Yummietummie.com)

VISIBILITY: This seamless cotton tank top has a shiny spandex midsection, so it looks funny worn alone. But it guards against embarrassment if your top rides up.

WIGGLE ROOM: My morning routine was unhampered by the comfy, tank. I cooked breakfast, without giving it a second thought.

TAMING THE BEAST: My stomach was somewhat compressed, but the pesky belly was left. The built-in shelf bra supported very well.

FINAL VERDICT: Not a body-shaping miracle, but the most comfortable.

★

2. Spanx Slim Cognito
($74, Spanx.com)

VISIBILITY: The extra-wide, adjustable straps kept peeking out of the tank I wore to work — which wouldn't be the worst thing if the fleshy color didn't remind me of Grandma's girdle. The bottom also crept up considerably on a 30-second walk from restroom to desk, creating a hip and back bulge. Ick.

WIGGLE ROOM: I nearly poked an eye out trying to fit into the terribly tight top. Once on, it felt more like a medical compression device than an aesthetic tummy trimmer.

TAMING THE BEAST: I was so uncomfortable, I thought it had to be doing something. It was: Rolling up, it created hip and back fat.

FINAL VERDICT: Many outfits are owed to Spanx's beloved body-shaping shorts. But Spanx misses the mark in upper-body sculpting.

★★★★★

3. Instant Shape by Dr. Robert Rey Convertible Strap Corset
($60, Drreyshapewear.com)

VISIBILITY: Removable bra straps made this heavy-duty shaper a cinch to wear underneath a black cotton tank top. Vertical support spines cemented the top firmly in place and kept it from riding up after an hour of sitting. Unlike other corsets, these spines curved when I sat but bounced back into their original shape as soon as I bounced up for lunch. The plain black style is sexy and doesn't look like a standard body shaper. Perfect under an open blazer.

WIGGLE ROOM: A Playmate-style padded bra and three rows of hook-and-eye closures make it appear foreboding. But despite its structure, the shaper is very comfortable.

TAMING THE BEAST: A dramatic transformation. Dr. Rey's corset trimmed my waist, banished back fat and created an hourglass silhouette under a cotton top.

FINAL VERDICT: The plastic surgeon-turned-E! reality show star knows how to rework bodies. Dr. Rey's shaper lived up to its tag line.

★★

4. Assets by Sara Blakely Fantastic Firmers Tank
($20-$22, Loveassets.com)

VISIBILITY: Smooth as silk, this wide-strap tank didn't pinch problem areas or create extra fat pockets. It doesn't look like a stodgy shaper and can be worn every day.

WIGGLE ROOM: I felt at ease in Assets and could have lasted longer than the five hours spent in it. But after sitting a bit, the top rolled up and left a ring around the belly.

TAMING THE BEAST: Assets didn't tame much. But the tank did reduce one spot: the bust line.

FINAL VERDICT: A fine layering piece but unreliable for reduction.

★

5. Shape FX Secret Sculptor Cami
($29, Spiegel.com)

VISIBILITY: It wasn't a sin when this camisole's adjustable bra straps peeked out of a shirt. A worse offense came when the seamless bodice rolled up and left a lumpy-looking gut.

WIGGLE ROOM: A little snug.

TAMING THE BEAST: I felt cinched in but couldn't actually see a difference in the love levers above the hips.

FINAL VERDICT: The built-in underwire bra doesn't do much for bigger-than-B-cups. The bodice doesn't do enough to become a body-shaping staple. ERIN WEINGER (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Beauty

Prime Time for Lips

If you've ever considered using a pumice stone to slough dead skin off your lips, you can stop. MAC's **PREP+PRIME MICROFINE LIP REFINISHER** ($14.50, MAC stores) is basically just that. One half of the stick is grit, the other is vanilla ChapStick. We tested it via a toothbrush (often recommended for this purpose by makeup artists) and an actual piece of pumice. The results were good in comparison — the toothbrush left a lot of skin and the pumice stone hurt. Sanding off skin with this thing took longer, but the results were less traumatic. HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

Beauty

Long Is Relative

Look, here's the thing about long-lasting lip gloss: It stays on or it doesn't. There's not a lot one can say about it past that. L'Oreal's **INFALLIBLE NEVER FAIL LIPGLOSS** ($10, drugstores) stays on. Unless you eat. Or use napkins. Or bite your fingernails. Or kiss someone. So "long" is "until something besides your lip touches your lip." If "long" means something else to you, maybe you want to look elsewhere. But if you don't expect your lip gloss to stay around forever, or if you're just looking for a fling, this comes in subtle yet pretty colors and won't make your lips feel disgustingly sticky. So, life's a trade-off. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

Look out Online

express nightout >>EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

MUSIC

Taming the Turntables

DJ Shadow and Cut Chemist will be using only 7-inch records to create the music in their performance of "The Hard Sell" at the 9:30 Club on Wednesday. Rudi Greenberg spoke to Chemist about the challenges of creating a concert based entirely on live samples. | COMING UP

LIFE & STUFF

Planting & Entering

Paul Vivari knows he shouldn't buy plants from strange dudes on 14th Street at 1 a.m., because it's almost certain said shrubbery has been stolen from someone's balcony, porch or garden. But it's just so hard for a budding green thumb to pass up a bargain. | COMING UP

ARTS & EVENTS

Name Game

You give bars money, they give you booze — simple. The hard part is figuring out how to get people into the watering holes. Theme bars are a big trend, and Paul Vivari rates four local joints to see how well they live up to their names. | COMING UP

comment board

"I find it funny. What isn't funny is the reaction from Obama. If he doesn't want people to think he is a Muslim, he shouldn't react to a cartoon like a Muslim would."

COMMENTER MZ, WHO ADDED, "WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN A PERSON WITH THIS THIN OF A SKIN GETS INTO THE WHITE HOUSE?"

"I think it's irreverently funny. Is it outlandish? Yes. Can it be interpreted as offensive? Yes. It's all in how each person wants to interpret it."

COMMENTER CHRIS, WHO ADDED, "I THINK THE OBAMAS NEED TO ACCEPT THAT THEY'LL BE LAMPOONED LIKE EVERY PUBLIC FIGURE."

"The reason that it's not funny is because it fuels people who believe the false accusations. Those of us who are smart and sophisticated enough to get the joke are unaffected."

COMMENTER STEVE, RESPONDING TO TUESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU FIND THE NEW YORKER'S ILLUSTRATION OF THE OBAMAS FUNNY OR OFFENSIVE?"

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

DO YOU FIND THE NEW YORKER'S ILLUSTRATION OF THE OBAMAS FUNNY OR OFFENSIVE?

OFFENSIVE 54% | **FUNNY** 46%

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP

Blog LOG

"I always thought it was strange that Screen on the Green doesn't program by theme. This year would've been good for a series of political films."

TICKLETHEPEAR.LIVEJOURNAL.COM SAW "DR. NO" ON THE NATIONAL MALL MONDAY NIGHT AND USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH AND BOND WITH HER NEIGHBORS.

TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"I can tell you one thing: It hurts to look at it, even though I guess I understand what the artist, Barry Blitt, says he was trying to do."

DONTGELYET.TYPEPAD.COM REACTS TO THE RECENT NEW YORKER COVER, ADDING, "IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW MANY RIGHT WING WEB SITES AND PUBLICATIONS MAKE USE OF THIS IMAGE."

"YOU KNOW HOW your dog or your kid does this incredibly cute thing when no one else is around, and then when you try to get them to do it in the presence of another human they sit and stare? Wallpaper's just the opposite of that."

GILAHI-BLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM IS EMBARRASSED BY THE STATE OF DISREPAIR OF HIS WALL DECORATIONS.

"IT MAKES ME uncomfortable to know that the people who are handling my transactions do not know how to spell the word 'city.'"

ORVETTIFACTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM JUST REALIZED THAT THE NAME 'CITIBANK' DOESN'T EXACTLY INSPIRE CONFIDENCE.

"CAPITOL HILL INTERNS and staffers make me want to claw my eyes out. Well, the staffers that give the normal nice staffers a bad reputation make me want to claw my eyes out."

WHATLIZSAID.COM HAS "NORMAL" STAFFER FRIENDS, ADDING, "THEY JUSTIFY THEIR MEANINGLESS COFFEE-GETTING, HAPPY-HOUR-ATTENDING EXISTENCES BY PITIFULLY ATTEMPTING TO PUT OTHERS DOWN."

Discussions

The Obama Cover

Washington Post culture critic **PHILIP KENNICOTT** was online Tuesday to take discuss the New Yorker's controversial, satirical cover illustration of Michelle and Barack Obama.

I think the New Yorker's cover was an unsuccessful satire because it wasn't clear that it was supposed to parody conservatives' projections about Obama. It would've been more successful if they'd shown Karl Rove or John McCain imagining the cover.

A number of readers have suggested something similar, that the cover needed some graphic or title to contextualize it. The problem with that, however, is it can make the cartoon painfully literal. Any cartoon with a label that says "this part's funny" probably isn't.

I personally disagree with the notion that successful satire should, at its zenith, have a moment when everyone is let in on the joke. The whole point of satire is that only a certain kind of perceptive individual with some kind of exposure to the satirized object will see it for what it's worth.

I agree with you ... and tried to distinguish between "effective" or "socially safe" satire, and the more dangerous, anarchic, free-wheeling kind, which I love. The cartoon failed as "safe satire" but not necessarily as good satire.

Did Obama give the story longer legs with his reaction, and do you think he now wishes he had just ignored it or laughed it off?

I'd love to see politicians laugh more things off. But I don't think Obama had many choices about how to nip this in the bud. I don't think he actively fanned the flames, however.

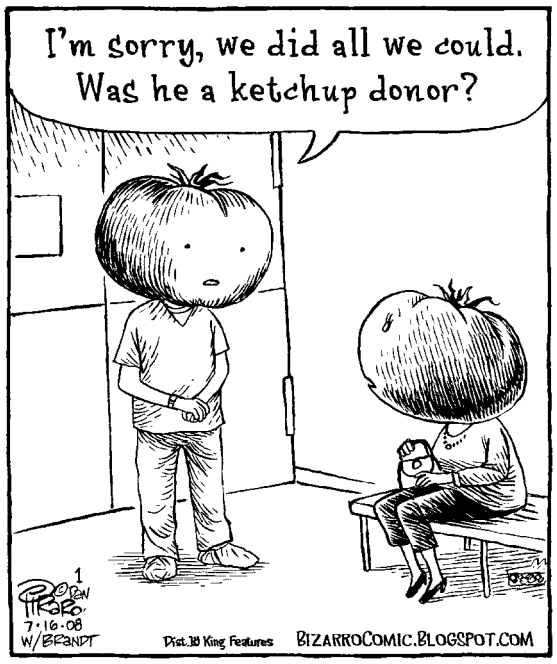
TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Bonnie Peregoy, animal groomer at Capitol Hill's the Healthy Dog Store, will take questions on grooming pets 11 a.m. | **washingtonpost.com/discussions.**

DON'T

EXPECT TO SEE MORE TRAINS, VRE RIDERS. The plan to add three trains and buy seven locomotives is on hold after Virginia lawmakers failed to approve the $1 billion transportation package and $25 million in dedicated funding for VRE expansion.

Look out

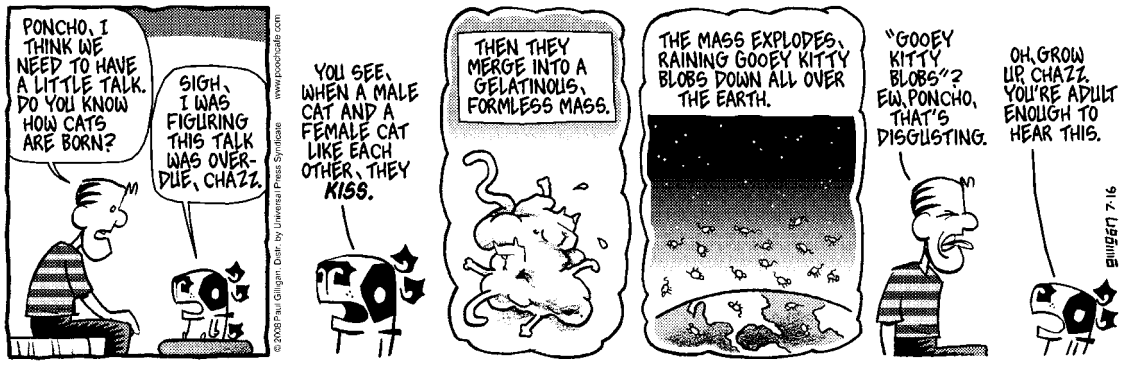
Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*



Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

Finally… the moment he'd been praying for.

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*



Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastisw*

The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may be feeling passive and vulnerable during the first part of the day, but later on you'll feel like yourself again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may be torn between two interests, but you can be sure that a decision will be required — if not now, then very soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your tendency would normally be to leave the most difficult things for last — but someone you know may be breathing down your neck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Don't overdo it, or you may put yourself out of the running for something you've been waiting for over the long haul. Don't risk success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It's time to begin redefining your own sense of self — and your own sense of what your work is really about. End the year on a high.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Someone you meet is likely to be a part of your life for some time; what you are facing may be a permanent commitment of sorts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't let your frustration lead you down a path colored by negativity and criticism. Focus on regaining your optimism.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You'll receive the assistance you need — but be willing to step aside when it's time for someone else to take the reins.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) A little talk goes a long way, and you could possibly put to rest forever a long-standing dispute over an issue you have misunderstood.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Though you've been trying to maintain a constant level of activity and involvement, it may be time to begin whipping yourself into shape.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll enjoy a look into the future that affords you an important clue about coming events — and about your own personal status.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You are revealing just a bit too much of yourself, and there are certain secrets that run the risk of being exposed prematurely.

Letters

The Flag: A Fashion No-No?

WHEN DID IT become permissible for sports figures to wear the U.S. flag as an article of clothing? On Page 14 of Tuesday's Express, Michael Phelps has a U.S. flag draped over his shoulders like a towel. I've seen it in the "Rocky" movies, too. Maybe that's where it started. Athletes should remember that Section 8d. of the Flag Code says: "The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery."

—RICHARD SANDAGE
Frederick, Md.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1790 The District of Columbia is established as the seat of the United States government.

1862 David G. Farragut becomes the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

1945 The United States explodes its first experimental atomic bomb, in the desert of Alamogordo, N.M.

1973 During the Senate Watergate hearings, former White House aide Alexander P. Butterfield publicly reveals the existence of President Nixon's secret taping system.

1999 John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, die when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunges into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

AP

John F. Kennedy Jr. and wife died in '99.

PostPoints DAILY CODE OE

Look out | People

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

He's not even certain what a farm is.

CONFUSION

Yankees Puzzle Over What A Farm Is, Why It Needs Aid

Farm Aid, the long-running benefit concert, will be held this year in New England for the first time. **JOHN MELLENCAMP** held a news conference in Boston on Tuesday to announce that the show will be held Sept. 20 at the Comcast Center in Mansfield. Mellencamp, Willie Nelson, Neil Young and Dave Matthews will headline the concert. (AP)

OH, LORD

Publicist Cringes So Hard Continents Reform Pangaea

"I'd love to do a younger, cleaner version of 'Sex and the City,' **MILEY CYRUS** reportedly told TV Guide. Despite this goal, Cyrus wears a purity ring, a sign that she will stay a virgin until marriage. "I like to think of myself as the girl that no one can get, that no one can keep in their hand." She added: "I want to be a positive role model, so we just try to keep [that stuff] as much not talked about as possible." (EXPRESS)

RICK RYCROFT/AP

LESSER KARDASHIANS

Khloe in the Keep

KHLOE KARDASHIAN, reality show star and youngest daughter of late attorney Robert Kardashian, admitted during a July 3 court hearing that she violated her probation stemming from a 2007 drunken-driving arrest. A Los Angeles judge ordered Kardashian, of E!'s "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," to surrender to authorities on Friday and serve up to 30 days in jail.

OFFENDED

'She Couldn't Have Named At Least One After Me?'

"My grandkids make reporters interested in me."

JON VOIGHT says he's doubly happy about his ultra-famous new grandchildren. Voight says he's "so excited" that daughter Angelina Jolie has given birth to twins in southern France. He says he hasn't spoken to Jolie yet. The two have been estranged for many years. But speaking during a Television Critics Association press tour, Voight told The Associated Press: "My heart is with them, and all my love goes to them." He spoke Monday night in Los Angeles. Jolie gave birth to Vivienne Marcheline and Knox Leon in Nice on Saturday with their proud papa, Brad Pitt, at her side. (AP)

PARANOIA

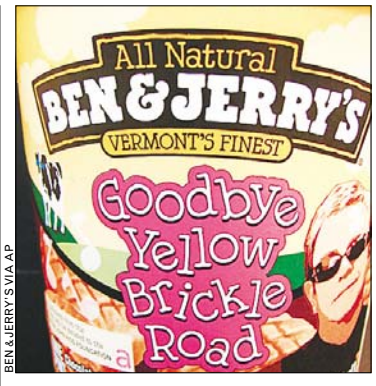
Those Baby Monitors Never Did Seem Quite Right

The wife of Alex Rodriguez wants to know whether the New York Yankees star hired private detectives or had wiretaps installed to spy on her. **CYNTHIA RODRIGUEZ**'s lawyers demanded evidence of any such surveillance as part of a routine request filed in Miami-Dade Circuit Court last week in their divorce case. The document asks for any tape recordings, photographs, reports from investigators or results from possible wiretaps "or other electronic surveillance conducted by you or others on your behalf." Cynthia Rodriguez filed for divorce last week after more than five years of marriage. (AP)

FATE

World Finally Finds a Way To Make This Incredible Pun

Ben & Jerry's will release an **ELTON JOHN**-themed flavor, Goodbye Yellow Brickle Road, for one week only to honor John's first concert in Vermont. According to the company, it is "an outrageous symphony of decadent chocolate ice cream, peanut butter cookie dough, butter brickle and white chocolate chunks." Proceeds will benefit John's AIDS foundation. (EXPRESS)



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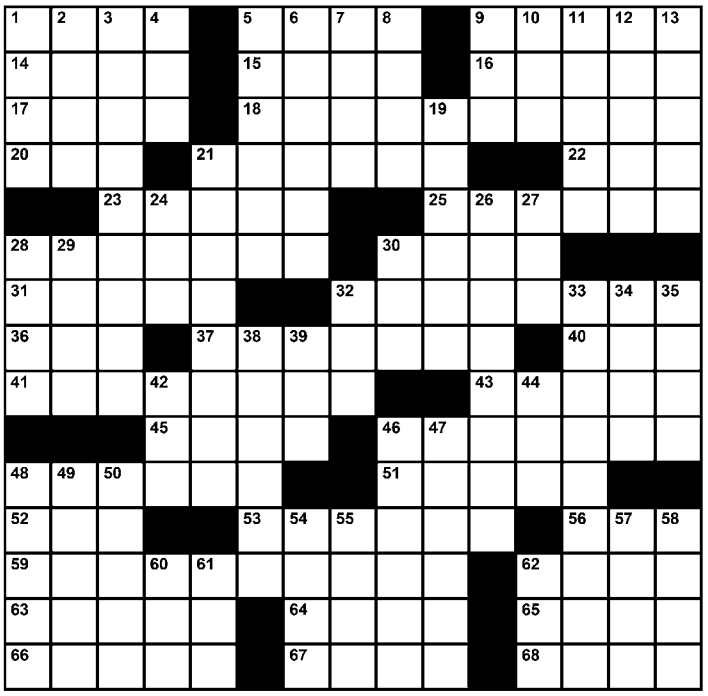
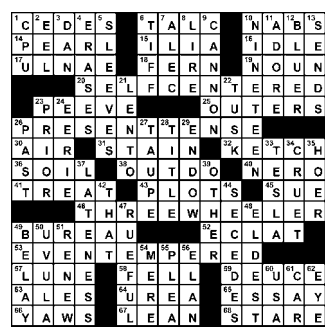


ACROSS
1 A, B, or O
5 The Bruins' home, briefly
9 Howling hunter
14 Vulnerable spot for Achilles
15 Seasonal air
16 Casaba, e.g.
17 "Duke of ___" (1962 doo-wop classic)
18 Certain instru mentalist
20 Moon path
21 Jelly Roll of jazz
22 Last of 26
23 Considers, as a judge
25 Some literary pieces
28 Iridescent
30 It can be a stretch
31 Arrest, in slang
32 Circle segments (Var.)
36 Tot's need, briefly
37 City in California's Monterey County
40 "So there!"
41 Range
43 Somber
45 Emulated the sirens
46 Implored
48 Tropical fruit
51 Dirge's tempo
52 London libation
53 Leg bones
56 Third word of many limericks
59 Breakfast option
62 With adroitness
63 Macbeth's honorific
64 Molokai's neighbor
65 "I'm listening"
66 You may make your own at the bar
67 Pear-shaped instrument
68 One making firm decisions?

DOWN
1 Which train to take, in song
2 Orbital period
3 Maybe, of old
4 3.75 feet, once
5 Still enjoying womb service
6 Sandpaper choice
7 It may come before we forget
8 Furthermore
9 Patient care grp.
10 Nikkei dough
11 Miss Doolittle
12 Like a buttinsky (Var.)
13 Stud fees?
19 New York silver center
21 Bulwark
24 Actor Wallach
26 Small bits
27 Old French coin
28 Uneaten morsels
29 Paper making material
30 Whippersnapper
32 Dream- period acronym
33 Fight a phantom
34 Roof edge
35 Hose or hoe's place
38 Showy
39 Carry with effort
42 Govt. headed by Davis
44 One living in a dump
46 Unfortunate situation
47 Word with "Little" or "major"
48 Treaties
49 Word used for comings and goings
50 Brake part
54 Worshipped one
55 Sweetheart
57 Natural burn remedy
58 Out of ___ (not lining up)
60 Watson's code letters
61 Conducted
62 Wine factor

Yesterday's Solution



SUDOKU | MEDIUM

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Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and computer program.

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Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

	7							
			4		6			
1				8	2		5	
	4	9			3	1		
		1		9		3		
		3	1			2	8	
	6		9	3				4
			5		4			
							6	

Yesterday's Solution

4	5	1	3	6	9	8	7	2
9	7	3	5	8	2	4	1	6
6	2	8	1	7	4	9	3	5
2	8	5	9	3	1	6	4	7
1	4	6	2	5	7	3	8	9
7	3	9	6	4	8	5	2	1
3	1	4	7	9	6	2	5	8
8	6	2	4	1	5	7	9	3
5	9	7	8	2	3	1	6	4

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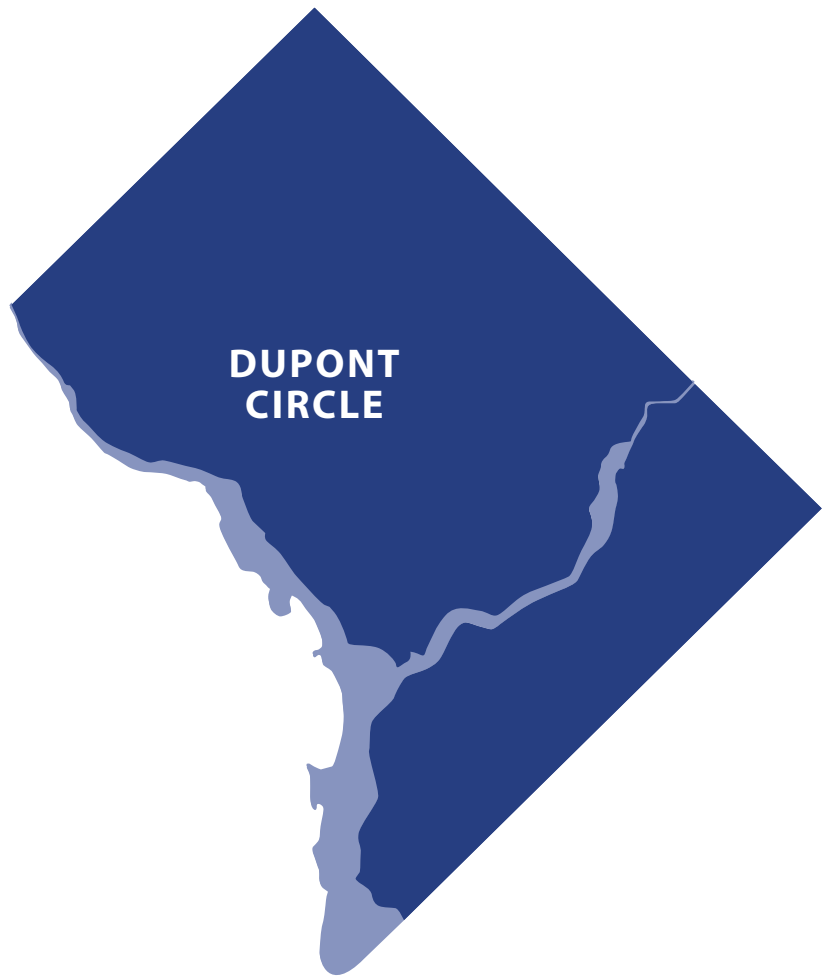

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The Buddy System

In business, two heads really are better than one

"Looking for a business-savvy mentor, particularly in the hospitality industry." It's not the typical Craigslist ad, but it was one of the first steps Meia Gaskin took to realize her life dream. The 31-year-old works in structured finance at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe securing credit card debt but eventually wants to open her own hotel. She needed guidance.

"I knew there was so much to do before you can even start," the Arlington resident says, "but I wasn't sure what to do first. Do I finish my business plan? Meet with hotel executives? I needed some insight from someone more experienced."

While she never got an answer to her posting on Craigslist, she did find guidance through the local branch

CONTINUED ON E2

Don Dean, a semi-retired hotel owner and volunteer mentor, speaks with Meia Gaskin, who hopes someday to open a hotel.

"HE'S WON AN EMMY; SHE'S WON AN EMMY. ...WHAT WAS MOST STRIKING WAS HOW NICE THEY WERE TO ME. THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO BE." E7

Better Together

CONTINUED FROM E1

of Score, a nationwide organization of mentors. Recently, Don Dean, a semi-retired hotel and restaurant owner and manager, shared with Gaskin some of what he learned during his years spent in the hospitality industry.

"After 44 years of business management and ownership, I have something to offer," Dean explains. He's worked for Marriott and Days Inn, and the Sheraton chains in Knoxville, Atlanta and D.C. Now Dean volunteers with Score Inc., a nonprofit organization and a resource partner of the Small Business Association. Dean volunteers just one day per week, but his plate is full. With the number of people seeking mentors in the area, "I could serve probably four days a week," he says.

Fred Glave chairs the metro-D.C. chapter of Score. He says the details of starting a new business can be daunting, and having a mentor helps immensely. "Most people don't know where to start, whether it's getting a business license or finding a location. When they come to us, we help them think it through."

A mentor himself, Glave's goal is to help new entrepreneurs and small-business owners grow. He says most of his clients have the drive necessary to become a success: "You've got to have a passion and feel it in your gut, because that's what sustains you during the rough times." But he also admits that sometimes, his job is to discourage people. "If I hear things like, 'I want to make $1 million by the time I'm 35,'" he says, "I have a red-flag speech. These people are spending their own money, and they might lose it." Glave says usually by asking them the right questions, a mentor can get someone to consider the implications of his or her plan, and "they'll come to the conclusion that maybe this isn't the right thing for them."

There's no certain field or occupation that seems to require more guidance than others. "I like to say I can go from handbags to salad dressing to an idea for the replacement of the pap smear in about three hours,"

LAWRENCE LUK FOR EXPRESS

Meia Gaskin tapped Don Dean, a veteran of the hospitality industry, for advice.

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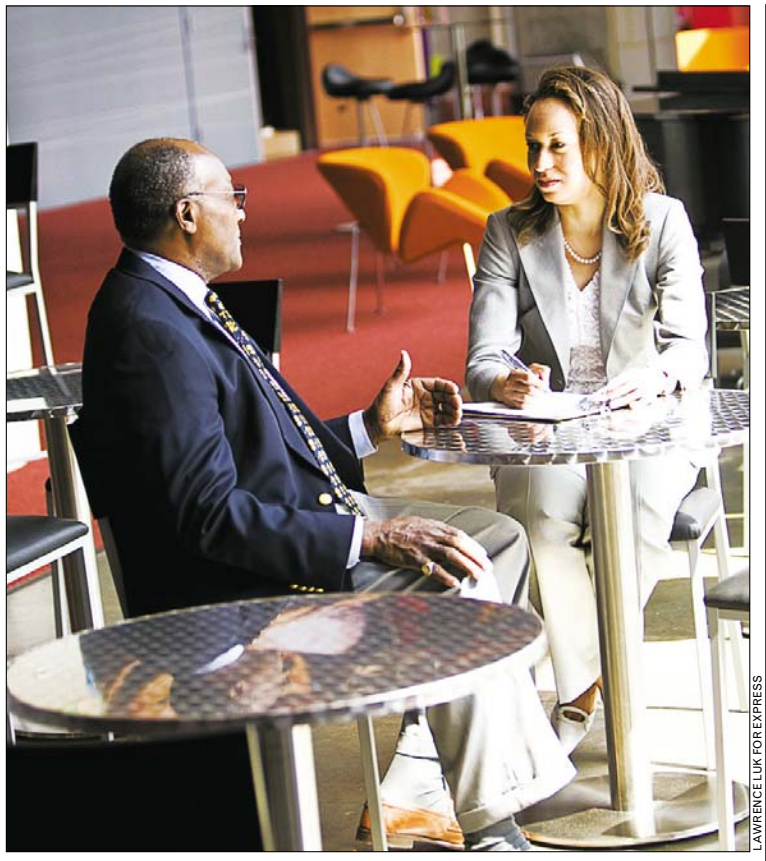
Glave jokes. He says people from all age ranges turn to his organization for help, and it's not always someone looking to start a new business.

For instance, Joshua Bogart is happily ensconced in his chosen field. A principal with Catapult Consultants — a financial management and information technology company that works closely with the federal government — Bogart saw the wisdom of getting advice from someone more experienced. At 35 years old, he's keenly aware of the benefits of mentors. In fact, he decided to go with the principle of "the more, the merrier." His McLean-based company has an advisory board made up of mentors from Score. "Having more mentors adds different perspectives. We find that our mentors are very much on the same page, but they bring a variety of experiences to the table."

> "Energy is critical — I enjoy the spirit of the people I'm working with."
>
> **LINDA FOSSUM**, PRO MENTOR

Bogart regularly puts together an agenda of topics he wants to discuss, and a pair of volunteers comes in to advise him and his business partner. "For example, it might be personnel items we want opinions on or new contract wins. The agenda focuses on different aspects of running the business depending on what is important at the time."

Not all mentor relationships are set up so formally. Eileen Caroscio met Linda Fossum when she decided to become a life coach, and then realized her new friend had a lot of knowledge to share. "I sought her out as a colleague, and it evolved into a mentorship," the 50-year-old Burke resident says. Caroscio leaned on Fossum for help with her Web site and her brochure. "She noticed things I didn't notice on my own." Fossum also advised the new coach to provide more variety: "She had the business sense of different packages I could offer to my clients, things like that that I hadn't thought about."



LAWRENCE LUK FOR EXPRESS

"After 44 years of business ... ownership, I have something to offer," says Don Dean.

Rather than face-to-face meetings with a set agenda, Caroscio and Fossum enjoy a more informal relationship. "She gives me a second set of eyes on my materials, or I'll call her with a business situation and say, 'With your experience, what would you do about this?'"

Fossum's background in corporate America — working with such corporations as Target, Land O'Lakes and Carlson Wagonlit — prepared her to become a professional mentor. Clients each pay her $300 to $400 per month, which covers three phone calls and unlimited e-mail communications to garner her experience.

"I was a mentor to my staff instead of a manager," she says. "Managing them got them to work; mentoring allowed me to get the work out of them that they were capable of but didn't realize it." Now a full-time

CONTINUED ON E4

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GettingAhead

LAWRENCE LUK FOR EXPRESS

"The first time I met with Don was the happiest day I had all year," Gaskin says.

Learn by Example

CONTINUED FROM E3

mentor with 17 clients across the nation, the 62-year-old Hagerstown resident says she gets as much out of the relationship as her protégés do. "I like to learn from the mentee. We're both learning constantly. And the energy is critical — I enjoy the spirit of the people I'm working with."

That goes both ways. Caroscio credits her mentor with getting her through some rough spots on her way to becoming a certified life coach and starting Passageways Coaching. "She elevated me past all of the stressful parts and doesn't allow me to get stuck in the business. She'd say, 'This is another step in the journey; don't let it take you away from the direction you're going.'"

Gaskin's first step in the journey — finding a mentor — did nothing to dissuade her. During her meeting with Don Dean, he gave her plenty of guidance and inspiration. "The first time I met with Don was the happiest day I had all year." The pair discussed her plans, and Dean urged her to intern at a few hotels to get a feel for the industry. Gaskin says they'll meet again in the future. In the end, she hopes to become a mentor herself.

"I have to pass my experience along. It just wouldn't be right if I didn't." LYNN THORNE

THE RIGHT MATCH

The right mentor is like a great pair of shoes: a perfect fit that leads you down the right path. But like Linda Fossum of Ten Thousand Moments, a life and corporate coaching company, says, when it comes to choosing a mentor, "define your needs" and "don't look for one mentor to be everything to you."

In other words, decide whether you want someone to guide you through a marketing plan or product development, and find a person with the necessary strengths.

Fossum says it's also important to establish the type of relationship you want. "Do you need a formal mentor, with whom you'll meet regularly to discuss your progress on certain goals," or would you feel more comfortable with "someone you can just bounce ideas off of" when a situation calls for it?

Finally, a mentor with experience at more than one company can offer a broader perspective. "The business aspect is pretty general, but he could tell me what the hospitality industry is all about," Gaskin says of her mentor, Don Dean. L.T.

MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

REDEEM US: Lori Parkerson opened her boutique, Redeem, after "maybe 10 years" of planning and wishing. Redeem sells clothes by new and unsung designers.

A Passion for Fashion

From store owners to style consultants, D.C. takes fashion by the lapels

A typical work scene on MTV's "The Hills" plays out like this: Designer-clad and perfectly coiffed Lauren Conrad and Whitney Port chat about boys while sorting idly through racks of clothes. A supervisor will ask them to perform a simple task. They freeze, eyes wide, and exclaim "OMG." Rapid-fire texting commences. The girls pout attractively.

"That's bull," says Lauren Webb about the reality show's representation of entry-level fashion careers. "I know that the industry is not glamorous — it's not parties every night."

Webb, a 24-year-old analyst for the Department of Defense, thinks that once she leaves for a fashion position in New York, her day will be more like this: Arriving at the office before most people have had their coffee. Attending meetings with designers and photographers. Updating a list of contacts for Fashion Week, and maybe, if she has time, writing a blog entry about a collection she loves — no "OMG's" or vacant stares allowed.

With the popularity of fashion-based shows and movies such as "The Devil Wears Prada," "Ugly Betty," and "Project Runway," competition in the industry is steep. The clothes may be beautiful, but the job search will not be pretty.

"All these fashion-oriented shows like 'Project Runway' give a wrong impression about how the industry works," says Sally Melanie Lourenco, a former editor of Italian Vogue who teaches online courses on starting out in fashion careers of all types. "You ask, 'Why do you want to work here?' and they answer, 'Because I love clothes.' It goes so much deeper than loving clothes."

Lourenco's course gives fashion novices a foot in the door and teaches them how to apply for entry-level fashion jobs, like editorial or fashion assistant positions at magazines and with designers. Though she says there's no single position that is an easy in, temping for designers and working as a runner during fashion week will allow you to make contacts and get noticed in an overcrowded and competitive field.

Webb certainly loves clothes, but she also loves entrepreneurship. That's why, before moving from D.C. to New York to work full-time for a designer or a fashion magazine, she took Lourenco's classes and worked part-time gigs, packing friends and clients' suitcases for business trips and assisting with shoots for DC Style Magazine. The experience has convinced her of Lourenco's oft-repeated maxim: Be sure you really want this.

"You have to look at yourself and say, 'What do I have to offer?' Not so much 'What do I want to get?'" says Lourenco. "There's a lot of people who come to the industry and think of what they want to get, like clothes and meeting celebrities, but those people don't go too far. They don't contribute anything lasting, they're just hangers-on. It's really about the inspiration or creativity or working with amazing photographers, saying, 'This is what fashion is about.'"

Caveats aside, Lourenco (who has worked at Prada, Marie Claire, Vogue and Nylon) makes an encouraging leader for her students, who are urged to blog daily and ask questions at weekly office hours and online chats.

Still, all the advice in the world won't help you survive on a budget that will hardly buy groceries, let alone Jimmy Choos. Lourenco says that an entry-level fashionista will be lucky to make more than $30,000 a year in one of the most expensive cities in the world. Though New York may be the center of the fashion universe, those who aren't ready to pack up and move into a shoebox-size apartment can cultivate a fashion career of a different sort in Washington.

> "I know that the industry is not glamorous — it's not parties every night."
>
> **LAUREN WEBB**, FASHIONISTA

Take Rachel Rosenthal — a former Hill staffer and lawyer who was unfulfilled in the political world. She decided to put her impeccable taste to use, founding Rosey's, a personal shopping and organizing business.

"I realized I liked helping people, so I started with my family and friends first, organizing their closets," says Rosenthal. "People asked if things looked good on them, but they didn't have time to get clothes for themselves, so I started personal shopping from there."

Her job — since nearly every fashion career can be compared to a TV show — is analogous to "What Not to Wear," except instead of sending hapless, style-starved people to hit the shops on their own, Rosenthal does the grunt work, bringing back piles of handpicked clothing to be tried on in the customer's own home.

Shopping all day sounds fun, but there's more to it than just visiting boutiques for a client each day, says Rosenthal.

"There were a lot of financial concerns, going from a job where I had a steady paycheck to this," she says. "I put together a business plan — my husband is a lawyer, and he helped — and I didn't quit my other job before I had clients. It was a very big leap of faith."

That's similar to how Lori Parkerson described the process of deciding to open her bou-

CONTINUED ON E6

GettingAhead

Couture Careers

CONTINUED FROM E5

tique, Redeem (1734 14th St. NW, 202- 332-7447). Working at XM Satellite Radio, Parkerson, 34, had always thought about working in fashion, but it took her awhile to work up the nerve.

"I probably started looking to do a business plan maybe 10 years ago, and I would revisit it every couple of years," says Parkerson. "It was never something I thought would actually happen."

For months, she had been scoping out real estate on 14th Street for a store, and as the neighborhood grew more upscale, Parkerson didn't want to get left behind. She enlisted her business-major brother to draft a plan once they had procured a storefront near U Street. For the interior, she picked up a hammer and went to work. "Hiring a contractor is expensive," she says. "It's really our blood, sweat and tears." Parkerson and her family did all of the store except the electrical wiring. Redeem opened in October 2006, and she's been content with her career change ever since.

"They say if you can stay in business for the first year, you've made it, but now I think it's two years of being in business, so I'm waiting for October. Waiting for it to be operational, in this tough economic climate [has been hard], but everything else is a complete pleasure and joy," says Parkerson, who most enjoys meeting with unsung designers and selling their clothing.

Parkerson's final piece of advice is one that Lourenco and Rosenthal also echoed: Don't get in your own way of your aspirations.

"Fashion is almost a psychological block — some people don't want to put too much thought into it, because they're afraid they'll be rejected," says Lourenco.

"Don't talk yourself out of it. You don't need a business or a fashion degree," says Parkerson. Her sentiment rings true in her store's motto: "It's never too late to change." MAURA JUDKIS

ABBY GREENAWALT FOR EXPRESS

Lauren Webb plans to move to New York City one day to further her career. Until then, she's earning valuable experience working part-time fashion gigs in D.C.

APPLIED APPAREL

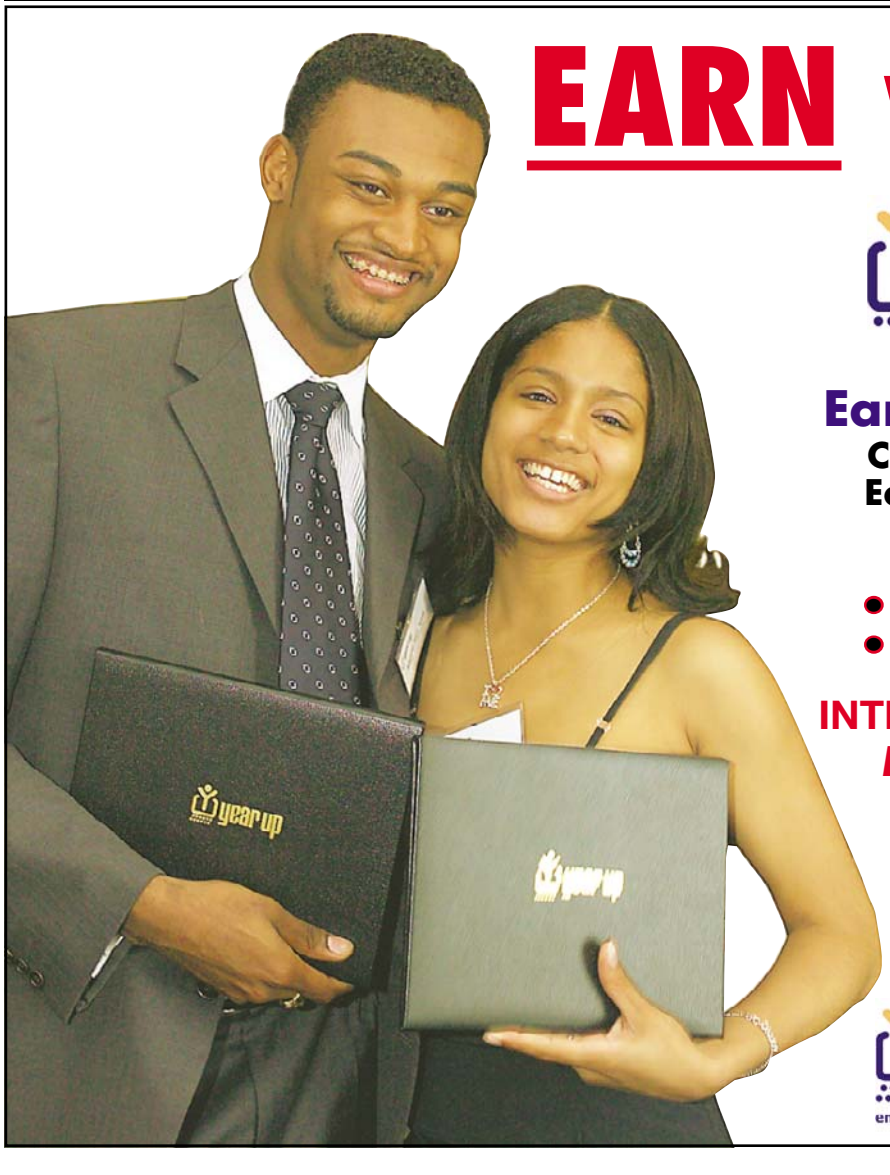
We collected tips to help you get your Prada-heeled foot in the door.

➜ **SET UP** informational interviews with top editors or stylists, and ask them questions about their jobs. If they like you, they will find a place for you.

➜ **DO YOUR** research first — "You can't just go in there and say, 'My favorite designer is Marc Jacobs' and expect to hit it off," says Lourenco. Read the magazine; know everyone's name in the PR firm.

➜ **GET OVER** your intimidation — top fashion designers and editors can smell your fear. It's a business, and they're normal humans who are making a living.

➜ **DRESSING FOR** a fashion job doesn't mean labels head to toe. Shop trunk sales for lesser-known designers. Your aim should be to make people ask, "Oh, where did you get that?" M.J.



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Capitol Hill lawyer takes a class, turns to acting and, yes, finds his voice

Coming soon to a theater near you: a Washington lawyer you've never heard of.

If that makes you raise an eyebrow, just think how it sounds to a federal prosecutor who last acted for an audience in law school 20 years ago. When "The Six Wives of Henry Lefay" opens months from now, among the leads will be Tim Allen, Elisha Cuthbert, Jenna Elfman, Paz Vega, Andie MacDowell, S. Epatha Merkerson — and Tony Quinn of Capitol Hill.

Quinn, 46, did summer-stock theater in Vermont "with a lot of Broadway types" while in college. During law school at Emory, he acted out — literally — at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company rather than clerk or research. But at 6-foot-7, "there aren't a lot of parts for someone my size," he says. "'Starving artist' was not appealing." Quinn took a law firm job in D.C., and in 1991 he joined the Justice

CONTINUED ON E8

Always had a theatrical streak, like Tony Quinn? Voice acting is one way to break into the biz — Quinn got his lucky break last fall when a friend cast him in his film.

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Lights, Camera ...

CONTINUED FROM E7

Department.

Chances to play to the crowd were few. "I'm a courtroom lawyer. There's a bit of the theatrical to that," Quinn notes, and he has performed a bit for free: as an MC at awards ceremonies and in Department of Justice and Boy Scout training films. Seeking other creative outlets, he wrote short stories and hid them in a drawer.

Quinn's wife, Anne, suggested he take up voice-over work or acting again. Last year, he spent an evening at First Class (Takeaclass.org; 202-797-5102), the "center for lifelong learning" near D.C.'s Dupont Circle, at a seminar called "Getting Paid to Talk: Intro to Professional Voice-Overs."

During the class — put on by the New York company Voice Coaches — students read from a script, get a chance to record and hear how they sound, and receive feedback on their performance. They can phone someone at the company the next day for further assessment.

"We tell the good and the bad about voice acting as a business," says producer and marketing director Warren Garling. "Radio and TV are only 10 percent of available voice work." But wait, there's more: "Everything that needs a voice, from voicemail answering systems to videos for business [called 'industrials'] to narration, documentaries, audiobooks — a huge growth industry — podcasts, Web voices, the Disney World tram voice, elevator recordings."

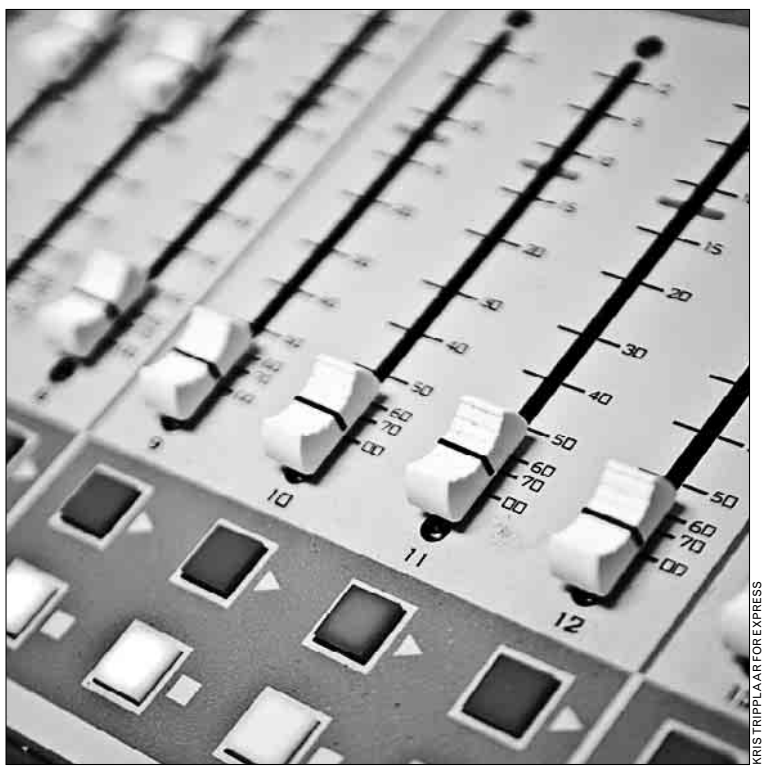
At First Class, the next voice-over seminars are Sept. 22 and Nov. 5, 6:30- 9 p.m.; tuition is $45, $35 for members. Voice Coaches (Voicecoaches.com, 866-887-2834 x 100) also teaches at Montgomery College Gaithersburg and through local public school adult-education programs.

Quinn signed on with Voice Coaches for extra training, cut a demo at an affiliate studio and circulated it. A month later, fate called.

Actually, it was Howard Michael Gould, a college friend who'd written for "Shrek the Third," "Mr. 3000, and hit TV shows. Gould had occasionally consulted his old buddy on such real-world concepts as "What does your office look like?" and "Where are the big mansions around Washington?" For his "Six Wives" screenplay, Gould had pictured Quinn while writing the part of a police officer. As director, he had the power to cast whoever he liked. Why not Quinn?

KRIS TRIPPLAAR FOR EXPRESS

"What'd you do on your vacation?" co-workers asked Quinn. His reply: "I was in a movie." Quinn credits his voice training with giving him confidence to start acting.



KRIS TRIPPLAAR FOR EXPRESS

Quinn took multiple workshops — at First Class and then at On Camera Training — before he found himself working on the set of "The Six Wives of Henry Lefay."

> "We tell the good and the bad about voice acting as a business."
>
> **WARREN GARLING**, VOICE COACHES

Before filming began last fall, Quinn took voice workshops and worked with Brenna McDonough at her On Camera Training studio in Kensington (Oncameratraining.com; 301-262-2792); her one-on-one coaching is $100 an hour. McDonough also teaches a $400 introductory course that runs three hours a week for four weeks.

On the set, Quinn looked around, awed: "He's won an Emmy; she's won an Emmy. ... What was most striking was how nice they were to me. They didn't have to be." During two weeks of annual leave, he was paid to get fitted and made up; the production picked up his transportation, hotel room and meal costs. Besides all that, "my two paychecks I pretty much handed over to the union and Uncle Sam. But it's better than a vacation!" Eventually, he may get residuals, too.

Clearly, luck brought Quinn the role — but talent and preparation made it possible. "I don't know what would have happened without the First Class class," he says. "Would I have had the confidence otherwise?"

Lucky breaks aside, voice-over work is rarely a full career. Wannabes pay for training, demos and studio time. According to the Washington/Baltimore office of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Screen Actors Guild, union members making a local commercial earn at least $279 for a 90-minute radio recording session. For a two-hour off-camera session, the minimum is $533. For an eight-hour, on-camera session, the minimum is $722. Any residuals are extra.

"This is a fallback. I have no plans to leave my job," Quinn says. But he's approaching 20 years of government service, which means a second career could prove irresistible. "If someone sees the film and is eager to hire me," he says with a grin, "I'm open." ELLEN RYAN

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➜ **NAME:** Matt Wuerker, 51

➜ **JOB:** Cartoonist

➜ **SALARY:** According to the United States Department of Labor, artists, including cartoonists, working in the newspaper industry in D.C. make an average of $73,120 annually. But earnings depend on the kind of position — a staff cartoonist working for a small newspaper can make less than a freelance cartoonist drawing for several publications.

➜ **WHAT HE DOES:** Wuerker worked as a freelance cartoonist for 20 years before joining Politico as a staff cartoonist a year and a half ago. But when he first began, Wuerker said he would take any kind of cartoning job that

COURTESY OF MATT WUERKER

came his way. Now as a staff cartoonist, his favorite part of the job is still drawing a one-frame political cartoon. "It's like a really great haiku — or maybe it's more of a limerick than a haiku. It's just the purest kind of cartooning to me," he said. "I'm more of a classicist."

➜ **WOULD YOU WANT HIS JOB?** "As a cartoonist and a not-so-fine artist, you have editors and deadlines to please." Also, in the days before the Internet, cartoonists were more localized. Now staff cartoonists are less common. "The Internet opens up a whole world of clients, but it also opens up a whole world of competition. The media landscape is changing radically under our feet." And as a cartoonist in the digital world, there's no guarantee you'll even work with pen and paper. "Once upon a time, you had to find these odd people like me who had the ability to create these images by hand," but no longer.

➜ **HOW TO GET HIS JOB:** Freelancing is the typical way to start these days. It doesn't guarantee constant work, but by marketing yourself through the Internet, you can gain experience and draw from anywhere. "Being flexible in terms of clients who call when you start out is really important," Wuerker says.

➜ **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Cartooning classes can help would-be artists and satirists fine-tune their drawing skills. The Art League School offers a series of cartooning classes through the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. The Art Institute of Washington also offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media Arts and Animation. EMILY BARTON

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GettingAhead

MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

HUES ON FIRST: Washington Glass School instructor/co-founder Tim Tate (in cap) helps students evaluate their creations.

The Head of the Glass

Learn to make bowls, tiles and houses during an intense weekend

Crash Course

Folks have been turning glass into art since pharaohs strutted in Egypt. (Tombs stuffed with beads prove it.) Two-day Beginner's Glass Lovers Weekends at the Washington Glass School introduce newbies to the ancient art form, which has been revitalized over the past half-century, thanks to technique and technology innovations. "It's a new medium in some ways. You can do anything and not be derivative," says one of the class' instructors (and school co-founder) Tim Tate. "Try doing that with photography or ceramics. You could be the first person to make a glass giraffe!"

The Basics

Small groups of wannabe Dale Chihulys learn three "warm" glass techniques using kilns in four-hour sessions held on consecutive Saturday and Sunday afternoons. (Warm is actually pretty hot: The piano box-size things operate at between 1,100 and 1,700 degrees Fahrenheit.) Classes are both hands-on and lecture-based, with eight to 10 students gathering around sturdy wooden tables at the industrial-chic (exposed bricks, cement floors) studio in Mount Rainier, Md.

What You'll Learn

Tate and other teachers (many are acclaimed area artists) give the scoop on fusing glass first. They help students cut strips, squares or triangles from Bullseye Glass using cutters and running pliers. These then get gently glued to glass tiles that'll be fired overnight in the kiln. The next day, students get to look at their projects and "figure out what they should've done and appreciate what they did do," says Tate.

Before leaving Saturday, glassmates use clay to sculpt tiny houses. Teaching assistants then help them turn these mini-domicles into molds for cast-glass pieces by submerging the domiciles in wet plaster.

On day two, students return to the studio to find a bunch of colorful tiles that have been baked in the kilns overnight. After a brief art-evaluating session (It all looks good!), it's on to the time-consuming task of digging clay out of the house molds. Using fingers and tools, participants scrupulously clean out molds and then fill them with chunks of clear, amber or turquoise glass. These'll be fired into cast-glass sculptures.

The last lesson of the weekend is 3-D kiln casting, in which one gently presses an object — a shell, a plastic frog — into dry plaster powder in the kiln and then places a glass tile over it. After a firing, the result is a 3-D image. Students must come back a few weeks later to get these creations and their houses, but by then, says Tate, "they've often signed up for another class." The school also offers courses in techniques such as bead crafting, bowl making and recycled glass art.

What's the Deal?

Beginner's Glass Lovers Weekends are scheduled for Aug. 2-3, Sept. 20-21, Oct. 25-26 and Dec. 6-7 from 1-4 p.m. They cost $300 and include supplies. 3700 Otis St., Mt. Rainier, Md.; 301-744-8222; Washglass.com.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

Till Deadline Do Us Part

Married writers with the same due date slog through work, domesticity

MARRIAGE | It is not easier to write about long-dead strangers, as my psychoanalyst wife says, only differently difficult. She did not have to decipher wavy letters by her subjects on Library of Congress Web sites or try to understand their lives by hunting down books on colonial tobacco culture and 18th-century battlefield drill.

Two authors working on books in the same household is like two bands recording in the same studio — less cacophonous, maybe, but still a nest of cross-purposes and sideswiping energy. Communication deteriorated.

Me: "George Washington did not expect to be dealing with smallpox as commander in chief."

She: "Hmm."

Half an hour later came her riposte.

She: "This playwright really found his voice after his father died."

DANA FINEMAN-APPEL

Richard Brookhiser and his wife, Jeanne Safer, juggle writing and married life.

Me: (shouting from the next room): "What's that you said?!"

But if, when we were alone, we were like zombies working at parallel tasks, we drew together whenever we socialized with others. No one else in our world was similarly engaged. When our friends talked about the news of the day, we listened politely, as to travelers just back from distant parts. If they raved about a movie or a play, we filed the information away for future reference. If our friends talked about their children, it was a little less strange — we were gestating offspring, too, though ours, we hoped, would earn us money, instead of draining it away.

My wife is absolutely right about the benefits of different in-house perspectives. It is like switching from ordinary lenses to ones that see near and far. As someone who had read a lot of very good journalism (by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine), I could tell her when she had hit the right grab-the-lapels note. Since my wife was a newcomer to Britain's imperial crisis and the early American republic, she always asked the necessary, forest-before-the-trees question. Living with a reader who is also a writer, and who is literally over your shoulder, gives you a head start on your editors and your audience.

Many writers have had in-house audiences. Molière read his jokes to an old servant, Wordsworth read his poems to Coleridge. Jeanne and I took it another step: We married our ideal readers. RICHARD BROOKHISER (FOR THE WASHINGTON POST)

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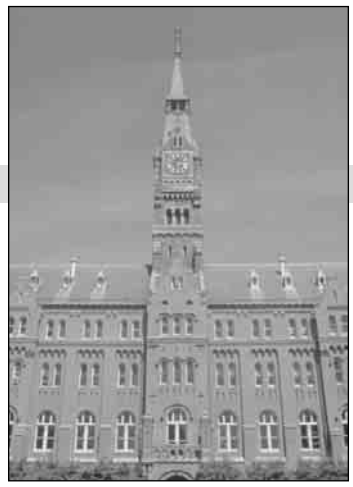

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